

Surprise move could create conglomerate worth £7.5 billion City stunned by Rover bid

British Aerospace is negotiating to take over the state-owned Rover group, Industry Secretary Lord Young said in a surprise announcement yesterday.

The announcement was greeted with astonishment in political, industrial and City circles, with BAE shares losing 25p on the Stock Exchange by the close.

The deal would effectively bring forward the privatization of Rover by several years, and create a multi-billion pound group with 120,000 employees.

Lord Young told the Lords that the move came in the wake of "an unsolicited and highly-welcome approach" from British Aerospace.

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The state-owned Rover Group, into which successive governments have sunk almost £3 billion, is heading for the private sector in a historic tie-up with British Aerospace.

In an announcement which astounded industry, the City and politicians, Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, disclosed yesterday that the Cabinet had given the go ahead to negotiations between the last remaining wholly British popular car maker and Britain's major aircraft manufacturer.

If the deal is completed, it would see the Prime Minister's aim of privatizing the company achieved several years earlier than had been expected.

The news was received with delight by Conservative MPs and ministers, most of whom

had no inkling of it until share dealings in both companies were suspended at lunchtime yesterday. For them the attraction of the company being sold but remaining in British hands appeared irresistible.

If the merger goes ahead it will create a multi-billion pound company with more than 120,000 employees.

British Aerospace wants to create a giant company with a turnover of £7.5 billion, of which more than £5 billion would be in exports.

BAE's chairman, Professor Roland Smith, said after the announcement: "We will be a pretty effective force in the world market, and from a British manufacturing base."

The Stock Market's initial reaction was unfavourable, with BAE shares falling 25p to 332p when dealings were resumed and dropping 25p by the close, reflecting concern over Rover's current industrial problems.

Ministers gave an enthusiastic welcome to the prospect of a deal, pointing out that car-aircraft maker combinations had proved successful abroad for companies like General Motors, Fiat and Saab.

Lord Young told the Lords that British Aerospace had expressed a serious interest in buying Rover, which is 99.98 per cent Government-owned.

The Government had given them exclusive rights to negotiations provided they are concluded by the end of April. If not it will feel free to look at other options.

Mr Graham Day, the Rover Group chairman, welcomed the intervention of British Aerospace. The deal, he said, offered a speedy route to privatization, while keeping the group in British hands.

It was an exciting opportunity. The two groups were complementary and not competitive.

Professor Roland Smith, chairman of British Aerospace, said its interest in acquiring the group - City opinion previously was that it was only interested in Land Rover - was to promote the

"mutual expansion of both companies."

Lord Young saw the likely outcome of the negotiations as "strengthening the prospects of the Rover Group."

But there were no indications in Whitehall or industrial circles of the likely price being bid by the aircraft company.

Professor Smith said he was bound to negotiate the best deal he could get for his shareholders.

"The Secretary of State is well aware that we shall strike a very hard bargain on the purchase. I am paid by my shareholders to get the best deal and I shall endeavour to do it," he said.

Labour MPs attacked the deal. Mr Bryan Gould, shadow spokesman on trade and industry, said the merger would lack industrial logic; it was the sort of conglomerate merger which had served British industry so ill in the past.

British Aerospace had no expertise in making commercial and motor vehicles and their experience of selling in international defence markets hardly fitted them for the mass car market, he said.

"There is more at stake than a clever solution to a short-term problem," he said. "What is at stake is the viability of a fundamental British industry, the survival and future of a crucial British technology and the continuance of thousands of British jobs involved in Rover Group and BAE."

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Trade and Industry, disclosed that the Japanese Honda company which has a collaboration arrangement with Rover had been informed of the deal and that their first reactions had been favourable. Lord Young and Mr Day are to visit Japan shortly.

He also underlined that before any deal was finalized, the Government would have to consider any other offers that had been forthcoming.

And he condemned the "snide" remarks by Labour MPs about British Aerospace. The company was seeking to diversify and it believed that together the two companies could complement each other.

Mr Clarke said that in

Continued on page 22, col 2



A marriage is being arranged: Professor Roland Smith, Lord Young, and Mr Graham Day, at their press conference

Exports boost from link

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

The dramatic move by British Aerospace to buy the Rover Group is expected to create significant cross benefits in engineering technology and expertise, although employees are unlikely to swap jobs from aircraft to car manufacture.

BAE, which is one of the four largest aerospace groups in the world with a turnover of £4 billion a year, will be following in a long tradition of combined aircraft and car development. Major car manufacturers such as Daimler Benz, General Motors, Fiat, Saab, and Chrysler have all ventured into aerospace.

BAE, which spans the history of aviation from the earliest pioneering days, believes it has an unequalled research, design, development and manufacturing expertise which would benefit the Rover Group.

The company has been encouraged by its successful purchase of the Royal Ordnance factories.

If the purchase of Rover goes ahead, BAE will keep the company as a wholly owned subsidiary, as with Royal Ordnance.

BAe shares plunge after news of takeover plan

By Our City Staff

She said BAE could easily pay cash for Rover because it had almost £1 billion on hand, although much of this was from customer prepayments.

Mr Keith Davies, an analyst at Citicorp-Scrimgeour Vickers, said the deal looked like bad news for BAE. "Nobody can see any logic in the deal," he said. "It would have made some sense if BAE had bid for Land-Rover alone because it fits in with its military side."

Mr Davies said he thought the deal was "bad news" for BAE but had not yet revised his profit forecast for the aerospace group. He is predicting £170 million pretax profit for the year to December 31 1987, compared with £182 million the previous year. He said the decline took into account provisions for the fall in the dollar.

News that the company was proposing to swallow Britain's last independent volume car maker immediately sent BAE shares plunging 41p from the 354p suspension price, before recovering to 331p.

Rover has 5.5 billion shares and is 99.7 per cent Government-owned, with the remainder held by thousands of small

shareholders. These surged to 86p from their suspension price of 67p.

Analysts emphasized, however, that their final judgement would depend on how much BAE had to pay for Rover. It might make sense if BAE paid a price near Rover's net worth - about £350 million after a £700 million capital injection by the Government.

Pickers outside the strike-hit Land-Rover plant in Solihull yesterday gave a surprisingly warm welcome to the news that Rover could soon be in the private sector.

Not one of 16 striking manual workers on picket duty outside the main gates in Lode Lane raised an objection to the Government's announcement of BAE's interest in buying Rover.

The group, all committed trade unionists, is among 6,000 manual workers in the second week of a strike over the company's pay offer.

Only two years ago many of the same workers marched through Solihull beneath trade union and Labour Party banners to oppose any possible sale of the company to private

Husain rejects Shultz package

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Correspondent

King Husain of Jordan yesterday rejected Washington's latest Middle East peace proposals after three hours of talks in London with Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State.

His decision was a serious setback for Mr Shultz, but was expressed in a way which would not prevent him from presenting new ideas.

The Secretary of State emerged from their meeting at the King's west London residence and went straight to Downing Street to see Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary.

After two hours of talks there, officials at Number 10 said the Prime Minister "expressed her pleasure that the US was making a major effort and expressed her hope that it would continue, as it offers the best hope for the region".

Later, Mr Shultz was to fly to Brussels and is expected to report to President Reagan today. The President and Mrs Thatcher will be among Western leaders attending a two-day Nato summit. While the

Secretary of State was with Mrs Thatcher, the Jordanian Embassy issued a polite but firmly-worded statement rejecting her ideas, which had stemmed from a six-day shuttle between Israel, Syria, Egypt and Jordan.

The key points were that, first, Jordan rejects any "partial, interim or unilateral settlement". Interim autonomy for the occupied territories, pending talks on a permanent settlement, was a key feature of the Shultz plan.

Second, the King reiterated "Jordan's firm adherence to the convening of an international peace conference, attended by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization".

Mr Shultz's plan tried to bridge the gap between Arab states, which say the peace conference is the sole solution, and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, who has rejected it outright.

The Shultz compromise was an "international event", which would be less ambitious than a full-blown conference.

The King's overall rejection was diplomatically understated. "These new American ideas require development to correspond with the requirements of a just and durable peace," the statement said. But diplomatic sources said that he had all but scuppered the package.

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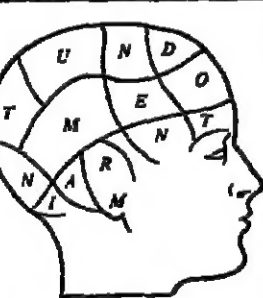
Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

There is still £88,000 to be won in today's Portfolio Accumulator, plus the £4,000 daily prize. (Yesterday's winner, page 3).



Is there an inland Revenue "hit squad" watching you? How the taxmen play cat and mouse with the public's purses. Page 9

TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND



Today The Times Tournament of the Mind enters Round Eight. With questions set by Mensa designed to test numeracy, logic, word power and general knowledge, the competition offers a £5,000 prize for the outright individual winner. For today's round, turn to page 9.

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Soviet city curfew enforced by army

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

In a sharp reverse for the Kremlin's new image, Soviet armoured cars and thousands of troops have been mobilized to enforce a strict curfew from dusk to dawn in an attempt to limit ethnic violence in the Azerbaidzhan industrial city of Sumgait, which has a population of 180,000.

The decision to call in the troops was taken by the Kremlin following some of the worst outbreaks of nationalist rioting seen in the 70 years of Soviet history as members of the Muslim Azerbaidzhan majority in the city on the Caspian Sea are reported to have attacked members of the Christian Armenian minority.

Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the chief Kremlin spokesman, who was bitterly attacked by a correspondent for the French communist paper L'Humanité about the lack of glasnost

being displayed about the crisis, admitted that there had been injuries but would not quantify them.

Foreign sources reporting from the republic's capital of Baku, 25 miles to the south of the curfew zone, said that 15 tanks had also been dispatched to Sumgait, where rioting flared on Sunday and gangs of youths went on the rampage, apparently setting fire to vehicles and buildings.

There was speculation that the violence broke out after local radio confirmed that two people with Azerbaidzhan family names had been killed during clashes with Armenians close to the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

A Sumgait police official contacted by telephone denied the reports that tanks were on

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17 die in mid-air explosion

Johannesburg (AFP/Reuters)

At least 17 people were killed yesterday when a small passenger plane exploded in mid-air over the industrial suburb of Wadeville here.

Witnesses said that they heard loud bangs and then saw wreckage falling. They said the wreckage seemed to fall in two pieces. Streets in the area were immediately sealed off.

The plane was a Brazilian-made Bandeirante turboprop. It was owned by Bopair, the airline of South Africa's nominal independent tribal homeland, Bophuthatswana, but was operating on behalf of another airline, Comair.

The nationalities of the victims, 15 passengers and two pilots, were not immediately known.

The plane was approaching Jan Smuts airport on a flight from the north-eastern mining town of Phalaborwa when the accident occurred.

Haughey defends shooting inquiry

By John Cooney

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, said yesterday in a vigorous defence of his government's independent inquiry into the shooting of Aidan McAneaspie, that the shooting of unarmed civilians by the British security forces could not be tolerated.

Mr Haughey said in a statement to the Dail, the Irish Parliament, that his instruction to the Garda to conduct its inquiry should not be taken as a reflection of the inquiry undertaken by the Northern Ireland authorities into Mr McAneaspie's death at Aughnacloy last Sunday week.

"It must be clear to everyone that the shooting dead of an unarmed civilian going about a normal and legitimate activity in broad daylight by a British soldier from an observation post along the border is a matter of utmost gravity", Mr Haughey said.

Mr Haughey said, in a clear message to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, that incidents on the border "are and must be a matter of legitimate interest and concern to the Garda".

Mr Haughey said that he hoped his Government's inquiry would help establish the truth and make an important contribution to creating a confidence in the rule of law and in the administration of justice in Northern Ireland.

Mr Haughey's 20-minute speech won support from a crowded Parliament, but Mr Alan Dukes, the Opposition leader, said that the police report should be made available to the British authorities.

Mr Haughey said it was too early to take a decision about sending the report to Northern Ireland.

IRA men die, page 2

The Eagle lands amid a whirlwind of adulation

By Alan Hamilton

Miss Vladivar Vodka shivered in her unseasonably scanty dress as she waited on the concourse of Heathrow Terminal 4 for Eddie the Eagle to land. "She is going to kiss him", explained her minder, "then we hope to get his signature on a deal."

Oh yes, said the minder, Eddie was going to appear in next year's glamour calendar advertising the Russian spirit from Warrington, on full colour pages. He had agreed to it all on the phone from Calgary.

The aircraft was late, then there was a mysterious problem with the luggage. "Passengers arriving from Calgary are still in baggage reclaim", said the public address helpfully. Miss Vladivar - real name Karen - shifted from one high heeled foot to the other, and put on a coat.

Subdued and ignored except by their loved ones, the rest of the British Olympic team straggled out of the customs hall. A large banner held by his mother and sister greeted Tom Delahanty, the bobleigh driver. A non-combatant passenger came out in an Eddie the Eagle T-shirt.

Eddie finally appeared - last, naturally. Miss Vladivar cast off her coat, picked up her placard reading "Fiona Vladivar Welcomes Eddie", and stepped forward. But she was a micro-second too late; 50 cameramen descended on Eddie and his trolley in a maul that made the Eton Wall game look mild.

"This way Eddie. Look up Eddie. Eddie. Eddie." Eddie, a phalanx of

policemen, and the howling monkeys of Fleet Street moved in a slow, solid mass across the concourse to a conference room.

With his newly appointed manager, Simon Platz at his side, Eddie looked frightened for the first time in three weeks. "I expected a little bit of press, but not this. I need to get some sleep; I'm off again to Finland on Wednesday", he said, blinking owlishly at the flashbulbs.

Was he downcast at being last? "Not a bit. Just being part of the Olympics was fantastic. Other countries would never have allowed me to go."

"Any marriage plans?" shouted a reporter. "Too busy," said Eddie. "If you want to stay famous, won't you have to stay last?" asked another.

"I've been speaking to trainers, and they say I've improved so much over the past two years that there's no reason why I can't get to the top. I want to get from last to first as fast as possible", he answered.

"What about the vodka and cigar commercials?" yelled a questioner from the back of the melee. "I don't know anything about that", he said.

The police phalanx regrouped, steering Eddie out of the conference room, across the concourse, and into a car which whisked him to a recording studio for the cutting of the first single by Eddie Edwards, pop star.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Director admits £107,000 theft

A former director of a company which owned *The Tatler*, the society magazine, was jailed for three years after he admitted eight charges of theft involving £107,000.

John Elliott, aged 53, a former officer in the Dragoon Guards, admitted taking the money while he was a director of LCP Ltd, another magazine company.

Judge Coombe was reported as telling the court that he was able to reduce the sentence on Elliott, of 10 Horton Street, Kensington, south-west London, after being told that \$85,000 had been paid to creditors by Elliott's second wife's family in the United States.

The case was scheduled to have been heard on Monday morning but was apparently adjourned by Judge Coombe until March 31 to enable the payment of the \$85,000. However, the case continued without public warning on Monday afternoon.

Spy film ban lifted Alert for fluid

An injunction preventing BBC Radio 4 from broadcasting the first programme in the series *My Country Right or Wrong* has been lifted, the corporation announced yesterday.

The Government agreed to the move, but injunctions forbidding the broadcasting of the second and third programmes in the series remain.

The series, about Britain's security services, was banned even though the BBC consulted Rear Admiral William Higgins, the secretary of the D-Notice committee, while making it.

A police search was launched yesterday for a stolen quarter-teaspoon of highly concentrated fluid used in cancer research which scientists say could be dangerous.

The fluid, known as TPA, was in two plastic vials in a black container in a car stolen from Leicester University 11 days ago. But the research worker who owns the car only discovered the theft on Monday.

The car was found abandoned 10 miles away in Barrow-on-Soar with the container gone.

Cameras at blackspot

Television cameras are to monitor one of the country's most dangerous stretches of motorway during a £3million programme of repairs which began yesterday.

In the past two-and-a-half years, 34 people have lost their lives in three multiple pile-ups on the M6 and M61 network near Preston in Lancashire. All the accidents happened at or near roadworks.

Video film will be kept for 48 hours and be available to police investigating any accidents.

Branson job boost Training priority

Mr Richard Branson yesterday announced that his Virgin Atlantic airline plans to begin flights to Los Angeles and John F Kennedy Airport in New York this year.

Virgin is buying two Boeing 747s, employing 300 extra staff and using licences for routes that were given up by British Caledonian when it merged with British Airways.

Mr Branson said there would be an introductory fare of £199 to Los Angeles when the flights begin in the spring. The New York flights will begin in the summer.

The Government's new unified training scheme will not help the long-term unemployed unless more money is available, according to the Employment Institute, the independent research group.

The institute says the government decision not to increase the £1.4 billion for adult training shows it has provided only half the answer. Mr Jon Skeids, its director, said retraining must be the "highest priority".

The Employment Institute's economic report (Southbank House, Black Prince Road, London SE1 7SJ: by subscription).

Man on rape charges

A man was charged last night with four rapes by detectives investigating a five-year series of such offences in the Nottingham Hill area of west London.

The man, aged 31, was questioned all day at Kensington police station and will appear before magistrates today at Marylebone. He was also accused of three indecent assaults and one burglary with intent to commit rape.

Police have been investigating eight rape attacks in the area since 1982.

IRA admits loss of two in blast

By John Cooney

The security forces in Ulster confirmed yesterday that the IRA lost two of its most experienced members in the premature bomb explosion on Monday in South Armagh.

Brendan Burns, who died in the blast at a barn near Crossmaglen, was regarded as one of the most dangerous terrorists operating in the border area.

He was on the run after thwarting an attempt to extradite him from the Irish Republic nearly three years ago for the murder of five British soldiers in an Armagh landmine blast in 1981. Security forces wanted him for questioning about a long catalogue of serious terrorist crimes.

The second victim of the explosion was Brendan Moyley. He had been questioned by police on a number of occasions about his involvement in the terrorist campaign but had always been released for lack of evidence.

A senior security source said: "These are two big fish and there will be no tears shed at their deaths".



Mr Brendan Burns, who was killed in the explosion.

The source added: "We believe they have played a key role in the death and destruction along the South Armagh border in recent years".

The two men died at lunch time on Monday as they were preparing another attack on the security forces. They were loading the explosive device into a hijacked van when it went off, killing them instantly.

The IRA conceded yesterday that this was the biggest loss to the organization in South Armagh for a decade.

Protesters arrested in battle of Waterloo Cup

By Ronald Faux

Twelve people were arrested for public order offences yesterday at the opening of the Waterloo Cup hare-coursing competition at Great Altcar, Lancashire.

A protest march to the coursing fields, organized by the National Anti-Coursing Council, ended in clashes with police as the 350 protesters hurled abuse and obscenities at some 3,500 field sports enthusiasts watching the ancient competition between greyhounds and hares.

When some protesters attempted to breach a thorn hedge separating them from the field there were scuffles and arrests. The anti-courser accused the pro-courser of everything from blood-lust to elimination of the hare as a species.

Sir Mark Prescott, the race-horse trainer and one of the organizers of the Cup, regretted the interruption to the day's sport. "They have every right to protest, but really they seem to have little idea of what actually happens. This is a positive Ritz Hotel for hares", he said.

Like the grouse in Scotland,



A mounted policeman, silhouetted against the dawn, leads anti-coursing protesters yesterday to the scene of the Waterloo Cup at Great Altcar.

hares were engaged and consigned to the 500 acres owned by Lord Leverhulme on which the Waterloo Cup has been held since 1836. But unlike driven grouse, the hares have a strong chance of escape, weaving and darting towards the safe ground at the end of the field where a bank of rough dandelions and rough grass is provided for those who make it to hide.

In more than 60 courses

yesterday, only two hares were killed and, far from relishing the slaughter, the coursing enthusiasts might have been accused of indifference. Attention was focused singularly on the speed, performance and the agility of the dogs on which bets were placed.

Sir Mark said: "We have survived three independent inquiries in 30 years, and each one started with the premise

that the sport should be stopped".

Hare coursing has declined in popularity from the days when crowds of 80,000 surrounded all sides of the field, making it impossible for the hare to escape, and Queen Victoria gave an official reception at Windsor Castle to the triple winner of the Cup, Master McGrath and his trainer.

In those times the Stock

Exchange would close for the day, and the result of the Waterloo Cup races were sent direct from the field to London by carrier pigeon.

"The true sportsman does not take out his dogs to destroy the hares, but for the sake of the course and its quality — and that is not me speaking, that was from Slavus Arrianus, who wrote the rules for coursing in AD 111", Sir Mark said.

Since then, the sport has found its own controversial niche in the British and Irish countryside, and about 1,000 enthusiasts keep their pedigree greyhounds for coursing. The biggest fall in popularity came not from pressure from the blood sport lobby, but with the introduction of greyhound racing because, for many people, this meant an end to having to stand in a draughty field in Lancashire.

Moore to announce a new national health yardstick

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Mr John Moore is expected to announce the first steps towards the creation of a national "health index" tonight. His speech will take the controversy over medical care into new and uncharted waters.

The aim of the yardstick, which is being likened in Whitehall to a retail price index, is to take Britain's pulse by providing a clear-cut means of measuring a battery of aspects of the country's health.

Its findings will help the Government to set strategic policy goals and underpin the fundamental changes in health care financing and delivery expected to emerge from the ministerial review set up by Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

For instance, data on the prevalence of high blood pres-

sure and cholesterol levels in the population could be married with existing information on life expectancy, morbidity rates, infant mortality and the effects of smoking and diet to build up a comprehensive picture of national trends.

The index could also be adapted to reflect the effects of stress and lifestyle.

It is intended to be entirely separate from the performance indicators that the Department of Health and Social Security is already developing as a way of measuring health service cost and efficiency in the drive for greater value for money.

The Secretary of State for Social Services will spell out the case for a new emphasis on health data in a speech to the council of the British Medical Association in London.

While giving few clues to the outcome of the policy review, he will restate the Government's determination that access to medical care should not depend on ability to pay.

Mr Moore is expected to argue that the well-being of the general population should be the focus of the current debate rather than the "obsession" with spending levels.

While there is plenty of information about treatments and operations, very little is known about their eventual impact on public health and even their benefits to individual patients, Mr Moore is expected to say.

He will also suggest that there is no necessary link between big health care budgets and healthy populations. He will point out, for instance,

that of the EEC countries, Greece spends the lowest proportion of Gross Domestic Product on public health care but has the highest male life expectancy. Ireland, meanwhile, is top of the cash league, but has almost the lowest male life expectancy.

Mr Moore is expected to tell the leaders of the medical profession that he has already asked his officials to examine the feasibility of putting together a portfolio of health indicators from which the index would be constructed.

He will acknowledge the technical difficulties of the exercise but argue that it is worth the effort to achieve better planning, more precise measurement of trends and clearer assessment of priorities.

Medicines cheaper over the counter

By David Nicholson-Lord

Following the Government's announcement that prescription charges will rise by 20p to £2.60, the National Pharmaceutical Association has issued a list of commonly prescribed medicines which can be bought over the counter for less than £2.60.

The NPA emphasizes that the list is not comprehensive. Acriflex antiseptic cream, 89p; Akrotherm 40p, £1.49; Allen-eze Plus tablets 24, £2.55; Allen-eze tablets 10, £1.49; Alacide Plus suspension 100ml, £1.79; Anethine cream 25g, £1.25; Anodexin ointment, 25g, £1.26; Anodexin suppositories 12, £1.49; Anusol cream 23g, £1.69; Anusol suppositories 12, £1.69; Arret capsules 6, £1.79; Arret syrup 90ml, £1.79; Asilone suspension, 300ml, £1.38; Audax drops 8ml, £1.99; Aurilgan 15ml, £1.50; Aurilone, 15ml, £1.31; Avomine 10, £1.20.

Benoxyl 5 cream 40g, £2.23; Benoxyl 5 lotion 30ml, £1.78; Benoxyl 10 lotion 30ml, £1.88; Betadine mouthwash, 250ml, £1.29; Bioral gel 5g, £2.25; Boccasin sachets 20, £1.62; Bonjela 10g, 99p; Bradosol 24, 87p.

Fefol capsules 30, £1.57; Feospan 30, £1.55; Fersamal tablets 100, n/p.

Gavison liquid 200ml, £1.99; Gavison tablets 12, £1.06; Goddards white oil 200ml, £1.79.

Histaryl spanules 30, £1.15; Imodium 8, £2.09; Ionax scrub 60g, £2.14; Isogel 200g, £1.66; Isopto alkaline 10ml, n/p; Isopto 10ml, n/p; Isopto plain 10ml, n/p.

Caladryl cream 42g, £1.69; Caladryl lotion 125ml, £1.69; Caryderm lotion 55ml, £1.49; Caryderm shampoo 100ml, £1.99; Cellucol tablets 100, £1.74; Cerumol ear drops 11ml, n/p; Corosody mouthwash 300ml, £1.79; Cystopurin 80, £1.76.

Daktarin cream 15g, £1.99; Daktarin spray 100g, £1.99; Derbac liquid 55ml, £1.54; Derbac shampoo 75ml, £1.54; Dequadin lozenges 40, £1.28; Dequacine lozenges 24, £1.25; Dioctyl ear drops 7ml, n/p; Dioval suspension 300ml, £1.75.

Earex ear drops 10ml, £1.10; Effecitrate 12, £2.35; Eudrid mouthwash 90, £1.10 and 250ml, £2.40; Eudrid spray 35ml, £2.35; Eskamel cream 25g, £1.03; Eurax cream 30g, £1.59.

Fefol capsules 30, £1.57; Feospan 30, £1.55; Fersamal tablets 100, n/p.

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Kao-C adult suspension 150 ml, £1.20; Kaodere 250ml, £1.53.

Lacio-Calamine lotion 100g, £1.39; Lancia cream 30g, £1.79; Lasolol ointment 40g, £1.86; Liquifilm 30ml, £1.60; Locan cream 30g, £1.19.

Maalox plus suspension 100 ml, 95p; Maalox sachets 20, n/p; Maalox tablets 100, n/p; Mero-caine 24, £1.26; Merocets 24, £1.11; Metamucil tub 200g, £1.66; Migraleve duo pink and yellow packs 12, £2.05; Milk of Magnesia liquid 300ml, £1.75; Monophylol paint 18ml, £1.53; Mucogel tablets 100, £2.34; Mycel ointment 25g, 99p; Mycel cream 55g, £2.35; Mycota cream 50g, 60p; Mycota powder 70g, £1.49; Mycota spray 110g, £1.49.

Nostrolin 14g, £1.65; Nupercainal ointment 30g, £1.03.

Optimoline syrup 120ml, £2.46; Oraldene mouthwash 200ml, £1.65; Orivine Anistin 10ml eye and ear drops, 99p; Orivine eye drops 10ml, 99p; Orivine Hay Fever spray 10ml, 99p.

Pavacol D 150ml, £1.29; Permolol paint 25ml, £1.25; Phenergan 10mg tablets 50, £1.66; Pholcodol D 125ml, £1.36; Phytex 25ml, £2.29; Phytocil cream 25g, 90p;

Phytocil powder, 50g, £1.20; Pilonin syrup 150ml, 50p; Pilonin tablets 30, 86p; Polycril fort gel 300ml, £1.99; Prioderm lotion 55ml, £1.49; Prioderm shampoo 40g, £1.49.

Quellada lotion 100ml, £1.09; Quellada PC application 100ml, £1.21; Quinoderm cream 25g, £1.62; Quinoderm 5% lotio-gel 30ml, £2.10; Quinoderm lotio-gel 30ml, £2.26.

Radian B 200ml, £1.69; Radian B spray 150ml, £1.45; Radian massage cream 100g, £1.59.

Scedermol salve 15g, £1.05; Senokot syrup 100ml, £1.59; Sno-Tears 10ml, n/p; Solarcaine cream 50g, £1.55; Solarcaine lotion 75ml, £2.29; Soliwax capsules 12, £1.16; Sudafed elixir 100ml, £1.49; Sudafed tablets 12, £1.18; Suleo C lotion 55ml, £1.34; Suleo C shampoo 75ml, £1.54; Suleo M lotion 55ml, £1.54.

Tavegil elixir 150ml, £1.69; Tetamolol ointment, £1.72; Tinderm aerosol 120g, £2.09; Tinderm cream 15g, £1.09; Tinderm powder 30g, £1.60; Tinderm solution 20ml, £2.04; Tinderm tablets, 100, £2.03.

Waxsol 10ml, £1.48; Wax-Wax 10ml, 79p; Xylocaine ointment 15g, n/p.

Courts may face tougher rules on bail

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government is expected to give its backing to a change in the law which would require courts to give reasons when they ignore police objections and grant bail to suspects accused of violent offences.

The change has been proposed by Mr Jonathan Sayeed, Conservative MP for Bristol East, after the recent furor over the release on bail in Bristol of two defendants charged with rape. One then committed a second rape; and the other fled abroad.

Mr Sayeed has tabled a new clause for the committee stage of the Criminal Justice Bill. He is a member of the committee and has drawn up a clause to be debated next week, which would affect all indictable offences, though it may be amended to apply only

to indictable offences involving violence.

Mr Sayeed said: "I think the public is particularly offended by violent offenders who are released and then re-offend while on bail".

There have been a number of recent cases of violent crimes being committed by people on bail, although in

per cent and will cover all solicitors in London legal aid areas, rather than just those in postal districts.

There is to be improved payment for work under the "duty solicitor" scheme at police stations and other improvements in the package, the result of lengthy negotiations between the profession and the Government.

Winston Silcott, who was convicted of the murder of PC Keith Blakelock during the Tottenham riot, had been on bail accused of another murder.

Last week John Duffy, was convicted of the "railway murders". He too had been

released on bail, despite police objections, when charged with a number of offences involving violence. He went on to kill two women.

The MP said yesterday: "The aim of this is to give an even-handed approach to bail. The position is if a magistrate or a judge does not grant bail, they have to give their reasons. But in my view if they grant bail against advice, then they should also have to give reasons."

For magistrates and judges to be required to give explanations, would "concentrate their minds" in those cases where they were going to grant bail in the face of opposition.

"Likewise it will concentrate the minds of those opposing bail."

Hurd faces Tory revolt on firearms

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Government is facing a rebellion by senior backbenchers over its plans to outlaw certain categories of guns in the wake of the Hungerford massacre.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said last night that the firearms legislation struck a careful balance between restricting the activities of the legitimate shooting community and the requirements of public safety. He said there could be no compromise on its central features.

However, Tory members of the standing committee examining the legislation had earlier made it clear that they regarded the Bill as a "knee-jerk reaction" to Hungerford which would have little effect on crime figures and would unjustifiably curb the activities of sportsmen, gamekeepers and other legitimate gun users.

In particular, they want self-loading and pump action rifles removed from the list of weapons to be prohibited and will oppose the Government in the crucial vote on Thursday unless they get concessions.

Mr Henry Bellingham, MP for Norfolk North-west, said he was ready to see Kalashnikovs, a self-loading rifle used by Michael Ryan in Hungerford, prohibited, and also tighter controls on storage, but not complete prohibition.

The Tories, most of whom hold shotgun licences themselves, have already defeated the Government once when they refused to let examination of the Bill proceed until Mr Douglas Hogg, the Home Office minister, agreed to compensate gun-owners for the weapons that the Bill would make illegal.

Mr Jerry Wiggins, a Tory member and chairman of the all-party agriculture committee, said the Bill was "based on an emotional reaction and not on hard facts" and was a "hotch-potch of ignorance".

Mr Hurd, addressing the Daventry Conservative Association, said the public no longer had confidence in a system which permitted private ownership of Kalashnikovs.

MP to protest about 'anti-Nato' TV play

By Andrew Billen

Sir Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds, is to protest to Mr Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC, about last night's television play, *Air-bus*.

Sir Eldon, whose constituency includes the United States air bases at Lakenheath and Mildenhall, said the play was a "prime example" of the corporation's "irresponsibility and arrogance", which was referred to in a speech by Mr Hussey last week.

The play, screened in the *Play On One* slot, portrayed

American airmen buying heroin and cocaine over the canteen counter.

Sir Eldon said: "I think it was designed to try to damage the Americans and the whole idea of the Nato deterrent."

"It does not reflect the truth in any way whatsoever."

Among the Times readers: Australia \$2.20; Belgium \$1.75; Canada \$2.20; Denmark \$1.75; France \$1.75; Germany \$2.20; Greece \$2.20; Ireland \$2.20; Italy \$2.20; Japan \$2.20; Netherlands \$2.20; New Zealand \$2.20; Norway \$2.20; Portugal \$2.20; Spain \$2.20; Sweden \$2.20; Switzerland \$2.20; Taiwan \$2.20; USA \$2.20; Yugoslavia \$2.20.

Irish take Arcadia in stride after high-grade gold find

By Andrew Morgan

A combination of mated gold fever and horror gripped Clew Bay, Co Mayo, on the west coast of Ireland, yesterday after a mining company confirmed high-grade discoveries of gold in rocks among the bogs.

Speculative calculations estimated the value of the gold at £200 million. However, the company involved, was playing a guarded hand. It preferred to say that if the quality of the gold discovery, up to 10 grammes per sample of rock, was found in the rest of the area then it could be lucrative.

Mr Hugh McCullough,

chief executive of Glencar, said: "We will now be stripping off the rock and starting diamond drilling, possibly before the end of the year."

"The actual value is all conjecture, but there certainly could be a valuable commodity, jobs."

In true oil-in-the-backyard style, it could mean wealth for hundreds of hill-farmers working the "commons" on which the gold has been found. However, Mr Peter Mandle, managing director of the celebrated Delphi Fishery, said he was horrified at the prospect of mining.



"It would ruin this valley, one of the last unspoiled areas in Ireland. In addition, we have spent £1 million renovating the fishery, and spawning in streams could be ruined with the crushed rock and chemicals", he said.

The discovery could be one

of the most significant in Ireland, although the mineral has been found in the Sperrin Mountains of Ulster, where commercial production may start soon. Under the Irish constitution, minerals belong to the state, but many local landowners could grow wealthy if Glencar and its partners, Andaman Resources, buy or lease the land after negotiating mining leases with the government.

Glencar, formed in 1971, has a market capitalization of £10 million with 1,500 shareholders. However, Mr McCullough is the sole employee, with work sub-contracted.

The company focused on the

Deo Lough region after finds by other companies in identical geology in Newfoundland, Canada, where one mine is in production and two others are due on stream. It began prospecting two years ago after the Department of Energy granted 10 prospecting licences in the 300 sq km area.

At first, six men panned the streams, sifting the sand until gold was found in small quantities in the heavier metals. From there, samples were taken from the volcanic tuffs in the 440 million-year-old Ordovician rocks, where the high-grade gold was discovered. "We have found gold in the rock significant because it

is through the rock rather than in veins", Mr McCullough said.

The local villagers were taking the potential discovery of Arcadia in their stride. Mr Bernard Coyne, of the Leamann post office, said he had heard of fools' gold (iron pyrite) in the area but not the real thing.

Ms Sheila Walsh, also from Leamann, said: "Nobody is particularly excited. Maybe it's because the people here are quite pessimistic."

Glencar is hoping the find could be added to a discovery it made in Ghana, which should come on stream this year.

Sex offence charges dismissed under child evidence rule

By David Sapsed

Sexual offence charges against a middle-aged man were dismissed by a judge yesterday after he ruled that the evidence of two child witnesses was inadmissible because they could not understand the Bible.

Judge Willcock, QC, ordered a jury at Exeter Crown Court to dismiss two specimen charges of indecent assault against the man, aged 46, because "it would be a waste of time" to ask the two girls, aged 10 and seven, to hold the New Testament and take the oath.

The mother of the child aged 10 later branded the judge's ruling as "ridiculous". She said: "My daughter was perfectly all right before the case and I am sure she would have been reliable. She knows what is the truth and what is a lie, and that is more important than knowing about the Bible."

The Lord Chancellor's Department said last night that the judge had no alternative under the terms of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933. However, proposals to alter radically the present legal barriers to the evidence of young children are contained in the Government's Criminal

Justice Bill, which is at its committee stage in the Commons.

The accused man had denied the two charges. The girls were said to be frequent visitors to his home and the court had been told that when arrested he admitted having shown them indecent video recordings.

The jury had been told by Mr Francis Gilbert, for the prosecution: "Sometimes he would show them video films which showed scenes of sexual activity. Sometimes he indecently assaulted them."

The trial was stopped when the 10-year-old, separated from the defendant by a screen, went to take the oath as the first prosecution witness. Judge Willcock questioned her about the oath and, deciding that neither girl understood the meaning of the Bible, ruled their evidence inadmissible. The prosecution was unable to offer further evidence.

Judge Willcock said: "It seemed quite clear to me it would be a waste of time to ask the girl: 'Will you swear on the New Testament to tell the truth?'. It would not make a button of difference to her."

"The consequence is, that little girl was not entitled to hold the Testament and swear to tell the truth with her mind being affected by the Testament she held."

"That being so there was no available sworn evidence to put before you from that little girl. The same I am sure would be true with the younger girl."

"You may think this a curious quirk of our law, but it is for good, logical and historical reasons. We are powerless to overcome it."

Under the Children and Young Persons Act, the evidence of a child under 14 who cannot understand the oath may be heard by a court but a person may not be convicted unless there is corroborating evidence. In the Exeter case, there was no such evidence.

Last year, the outcry that followed several much-publicized sexual offences against children prompted the Home Office to include provisions in the Criminal Justice Bill which effectively remove the need for corroboration.

The Home Office said: "When the Bill becomes law, a court will only need to be convinced that a child understands the difference between truth and lies."

Film industry

Duchess in defence of Bond

By Andrew Billen

The Duchess of York has intervened in a decision by Mr Cabby Broccoli, the producer, to shoot the next James Bond film at studios in Mexico rather than at the Pinewood studios, Buckinghamshire.

Mr Broccoli spoke to the Duchess about the move at a reception in Los Angeles. Mr Donald Ballentyne, the British Consul General in Los Angeles, agreed later to meet Mr Broccoli for further talks.

Mr Ballentyne said the discussions would be reported to the Duchess, who had expressed a keen interest.

News of the intervention, save \$5 million by filming

seen as halting the launch of a "Keep Bond British" campaign, was greeted with delight yesterday by Mr Cyril Howard, head of Pinewood studios.

He said: "I think it's smashing. Wouldn't it be wonderful if instead of *I Like Me and All the Way with LBJ* we started seeing T-shirts with *Bully for Bond*?"

"It was a difficult decision taken on financial grounds, nothing else. If the Duchess of York can change Cabby's mind I will be smiling."

The Bond producers will

abroad, although post-production will remain at Pinewood. The weekend, together with the withdrawal of British tax incentives, have been blamed for the decision.

Mr Jim Whittell, managing director of Rank Theatres, owners of the Pinewood studios, has described the decision as tragic.

He told the recent launch of the party EEC-funded European Cinema and Television Year: "I think one must take the opportunity to place the blame at the door of the Government and its attitude to the tax system."

Britain's best bad skier is back



Eddie Edwards, the British ski-jumper, arriving at Heathrow yesterday, fresh from defeat at the Calgary winter Olympics. He was given a tumultuous reception by supporters, newspapermen and camera crews (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Faster trains broaden commuter belt

By Peter Davenport

Faster journey times proposed on British Rail's east coast main line service are expected to widen still further the London commuter belt, pushing up house prices in places such as York and Doncaster.

The journey from York to London will take less than two hours and the trip from Doncaster will be completed in 100 minutes. In both areas estate agents have been reporting increasing interest by long-distance commuters attracted by value-for-money housing.

Virtually every train on the route will be speeded up when the new timetables come into operation in May, leading to the shortest journey times ever between King's Cross, Newcastle and Edinburgh. Journey times will be cut by up to 17

minutes from Newcastle and the Flying Scotsman will cover the 393 miles from Edinburgh to King's Cross in four hours 23 minutes, a reduction of 25 minutes.

The London to Aberdeen journey will drop below seven hours for the first time.

The announcement of the widespread improvements to the InterCity service was made in Leeds yesterday by Mr Simon Fraser, the manager of its eastern division.

He also detailed a £3 million programme for Eastern Region stations aimed at improving car parking and information for passengers, refurbishing ticket halls and giving what British Rail called "a more welcoming ambience at stations".

Mr Fraser called the changes the "most exciting and comprehensive improvements for over a decade".

The faster journey times are due to new engineering techniques and a fleet of track stabilizing machines which permit full-speed running of trains as soon as engineering work is finished.

They mean a 16 per cent saving in the costs of track-laying, fuel and brakes. The smoother ride is expected to allow fuel cost savings of £213,000 a year on the London-Edinburgh journey alone. Mr Fraser also said yesterday that British Rail's largest investment for 25 years, the £306 million scheme to electrify the east coast main line from King's Cross to Leeds, Newcastle and Edinburgh, was well ahead of schedule.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Prize win caps near misses

The sole winner of the £4,000 daily Portfolio competition prize is Mr James Leach, a retired accountant. He said his win took him by surprise, because only three weeks ago he was just one point off winning the prize.

Mr Leach, aged 69, of Restormel Close, Hounslow, west London, said he had played the competition from the day it started and had come close to winning a number of times.

He said: "I am so surprised by my win I have not thought about what to do with the money yet, but I am sure it will come in useful sometime".

Cocaine haul committal hearing opens

Committal proceedings have begun against four people charged in relation to an £80.5 million cocaine seizure - Britain's biggest.

There was tight security at Guildhall Justice Rooms yesterday for the appearance of Roy Garner, aged 51, of Cannon Hill, Southgate, north London; Brian van den Breen, aged 40, of Harley Street, central London; Robert Cernac, aged 37, from Florida; and Mrs Charlotte Chastany, aged 41, of Harley Street.

Baiting case

Eleven men appeared at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court yesterday, charged with helping to stage a dog fight at The Common, West Drayton, west London, on February 14. All were released on bail.

For the really big one complete the following in less than six months.

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the policy. So now you can enjoy long-term growth through a secure and balanced investment portfolio and at the same time invest in our with-profit plan which allows you to share in the profitability of NPI.

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over the longer term. Which means that people who have already chosen an NPI Self-Employed Pension could fare substantially better.

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IT PAYS TO LISTEN TO EXPERTS.

THE TIMES PRIVATE VIEWINGS OF OLD MASTER PAINTINGS

From the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection
MARCH 21 and 22, 1988

On March 18 an exhibition of more than 50 masterpieces from one of the most outstanding collections in the world opens at the Royal Academy.

The collection, usually housed at the Villa Favorita in Lugano, was begun by Baron Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza in the 1920s, and after his death was expanded by his son, Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza.

The Royal Academy and The Times are proud to present an exhibition of the best Old Master paintings from the collection, spanning the spectrum of European painting from the 14th to early 19th centuries. Some works by Caneletto and Duccio will be shown for the first time in London.

A highlight of the exhibition will be the group of 11 magnificent Renaissance por-

traits of the Italian, Flemish and German schools, culminating in the famous portrait by Holbein of Henry VIII.

The Times invites you to an evening with the Old Masters, to view the paintings at leisure in the splendour of the Royal Academy. Tickets are pre-paid and numbers are limited, thereby avoiding the frustrations of queuing and overcrowding in the galleries. The ticket also includes wine and a £1 concession on the catalogue price.

Two evenings, March 21 and March 22, have been set aside exclusively for Times readers, from 6.30 to 8.45pm. If you would like to attend either of these evenings, please complete the form below, indicating your preference, and send it together with a cheque for £5 per ticket to the address below.

THE TIMES PRIVATE VIEWINGS Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____ Initials _____
Address _____ Postcode _____

Please send ticket(s) at £5 each. I enclose cheque or postal orders made payable to Times Newspapers Ltd. Value £ _____ No _____
Please write name and address on the back of cheques.

Daytime telephone number: (Code) _____
First date choice: _____
Send your remittance and coupon to: Thyssen Exhibition, The Times, Promotions Department, 1 Pennington Street, LONDON, E1 9XN

March 1 1988

PARLIAMENT

Lord Young welcomes BAe interest in share deal

British Aerospace is negotiating to buy the Government's shareholding in the Rover Group. The offer was announced and welcomed in the House of Lords by Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

He emphasized, when asked what was the industrial logic of the move, that British Aerospace had made the initial approach and that the logic was a matter for them, although he quoted cases of car manufacturers linked with aircraft interests elsewhere in the world.

In his statement, Lord Young said: It is the common objective of the Government and of the Rover Group board to work for the return of the remaining businesses to the private sector. The Rover Group chairman, Mr Graham Day, has in recent months been considering the options for achieving this.

I should inform the House that an approach has now been made from British Aerospace, who has declared a serious interest in

acquiring the Government shareholding in Rover, subject to the satisfactory outcome of negotiations which are now being put in hand.

British Aerospace have asked that the negotiations be on an exclusive basis and I have agreed to this, provided negotiations are concluded by the end of April. If not, we would then be free to look at other options.

I shall, of course, report the outcome of these discussions to the House at the earliest opportunity. In the meantime, I am sure that, like the Rover Group board and the Government, the House will welcome this interest.

Lord Williams of Elvel, Opposition spokesman in the Lords on trade and industry: What is the industrial logic of this proposed merger? Is it the case that Rover cannot stand on its own? Will this be another conglomerate merger of the type which has not served us well in the past?

Will the Government retain a large shareholding in the combined entity. Will

golden-share arrangements operate, and effectively this time?

He asked for an assurance that any sale would be at the proper price and that the workforce would be properly protected.

If this had been in the private sector, there would have been a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It should be treated as a private merger and there should be no reference to privatization by the back door.

Lord Diamond, for the SDP and Liberals, said that they had no deep philosophical objection, if the purchase were shown to be in the interests of the nation, employees and taxpayers. When British Aerospace wrote to shareholders, what would be its reason for adding this business to its scope?

It was difficult to see the advantage to British Aerospace or the Rover Group in such a purchase.

He asked for more detail about the

exclusiveness of the situation. Was the Government denying itself the right to consider a better deal, a higher bid from any other possible interested party at all?

"Provided this deal is completed with British Aerospace by the end of April, nobody else will be permitted to make a bid? That cannot be right."

Lord Young said that the industrial logic was surely for the board of British Aerospace, who initiated this inquiry. It might consider it worth following the example of General Motors, Daimler-Benz, or might have looked at the interests of Saab and Fiat.

"There seems to be industrial logic between aircraft and car manufacturers."

"I am not a shareholder in British Aerospace, but those who are will be told. I am concerned that there are proper arrangements to deal with this approach. I have had advice from Mr Graham Day who advises me that it would be in the proper and best interests of the company if we gave exclusive arrangements

for negotiations with British Aerospace, which would expire by the end of April.

"To acquire a company of this complexity, it is only right that we should give the opportunity to British Aerospace to investigate as much as they like and then decide whether to proceed with negotiations at that time. I hope very much that they will decide."

If negotiations did not proceed, they would be free to look at other options, but he welcomed this opportunity for Rover to continue as a group.

He would not consider the position of reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission until one came, but perhaps he might be told what the overlapping interests were?

In later replies, he said that Honda, who had commercial arrangements with the Rover Group, had been informed of the bid and had sent a message to say that it welcomed it.

This was a unique opportunity for a British company to acquire the entire Rover Group.

Clarke defends logic of Rover Group proposals

The announcement of talks on a possible purchase by British Aerospace of the Government's holding in the Rover Group came in for strong criticism from Labour MPs when it was repeated in the Commons by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of Trade and Industry, Lord Young's deputy.

The Opposition's chief spokesman, Mr Bryan Gould, said that the merger lacked industrial logic. It was an example of the sort of conglomerate merger which had served British industry so ill in the past.

He said that British Aerospace (BAe) had no expertise in making commercial and motor vehicles and its experience of selling in international defence markets hardly fitted it for selling in the mass market of motor cars.

Had Mr Clarke had a hand in urging BAe to the negotiating table? Would the minimum requirement of a 15 per cent shareholding in BAe plus a "golden share" together with a requirement that all directors be British citizens be maintained in the joint enterprise? If so, what would be the position of Mr Graham Day?

What was the significance in the merger for the link with Honda? If Honda withdrew, was BAe prepared to make up through capital investment programmes the deficiencies that would be left?

There is more at stake than a clever solution to a short-term problem of his own creation. (Conservative laughter)

"What is at stake is the viability of a fundamental British industry, the survival and future of a crucial British technology and the continuance of thousands of British jobs involved in Rover Group and BAe."

Mr Clarke said that he preferred their industrial logic to Mr Gould's.

On conglomerate mergers, Mr Gould had no doubt been thinking back to those arranged by governments which at times had led to considerable lack of success.

"We have moved away from the situation where politicians like Mr Gould draw up their grand conclusions about the desirability of conglomerate mergers. This particular proposal was no result of any urging by the Government."

It had arisen from discussions between the board of BAe and Mr Day. The board of BAe had obviously decided that it was in the interests of their company to make this approach.

"It is not a surprising combination. If one looks at international companies in the same areas, quite a lot of similar combinations occur in the outside world."

He understood that BAe was anxious to retain the services of Mr Day who was involved in the negotiations about to start.

Honda had been informed today through the Japanese embassy in London and the British ambassador in Tokyo. "We have had the first reactions from Honda which are favourable. The Government would wish to co-operate with Honda continues. I believe that is the wish of BAe and Rover Group as well."

"We will be in a position to judge when the negotiations are complete whether this merger is to proceed."

Mr Terry Davis (Birmingham, Hodge Hill, Lab) said that last year British Aerospace needed government money to finance the Airbus. What assurances would Mr Clarke request to make sure that taxpayers' money was not recycled to buy the Rover Group?

Mr Clarke said that he was astonished that the Opposition should suddenly start making denigrating remarks about British Aerospace. It was a major exporter of manufactured goods. It did receive launch aid for the new range of Airbus products which were selling very well.

Mr Hal Miller (Bromsgrove, C) asked Mr Clarke to make clear the deadline of April 30 was only for the exclusive period of negotiations with British Aerospace and any other offer made either before that or subsequently would be considered?

Mr Clarke: Obviously before any deal was finalized we should

have to consider any other offers that had been forthcoming.

Mr Alan Belth (Bewick-upon-Tweed, LI): Was there any other likely bidder? If there was such a bidder, why should he be kept out? If not, why the exclusivity?

Mr Clarke said that the Government believed that exclusivity would be in the interests of the Rover Group and that was the view of the board.

Mr Roger King (Birmingham, Northfield, C) said that this was an opportunity to bring two excellent engineering businesses together, a great opportunity for both businesses.

Mr Clarke said that he believed the car workers of the Midlands would be amazed to hear the few snide remarks about British Aerospace from the Opposition. In other countries these kinds of businesses had come together with great success.

BAe was seeking to diversify. The House must wait to see if the negotiations arrived at an acceptable result and consider the results in due course.

Mr Robert Cray (Bradford South, Lab) said the British should suddenly start making denigrating remarks about British Aerospace. It was a major exporter of manufactured goods. It did receive launch aid for the new range of Airbus products which were selling very well.

Mr Clarke said that the company had lost an enormous amount of money over recent years, but the group's financial position was improving now. It expected to declare a trading profit for the end of the financial year leading up to the end of 1987.

He said later that BAe be-

lieved that the two companies could successfully complement each other. "They think this is a good opportunity of diversifying their company."

Mr David Nellist (Coventry South East, Lab) said that Mr Graham Day had been brought in more as an underwriter than as a physiotherapist to prepare for the privatization of Rover. One of the key preparations had come last year when he had authorized the theft of £80 million of workers' deferred wages from the pension fund to make the balance sheet more attractive for this bid.

What guarantees would Mr Clarke seek from BAe on continuity of employment?

Mr Clarke said Mr Day had been brought in because of his considerable and undoubted managerial and business skills. Employment in this industry depended upon its success in the market place, as with any other company.

Mr Jonathan Sayeed (Bristol East, C) said that the commercial logic of the Opposition had been seen. Meriden, Upper Clyde Shipbuilders and the takeover of Bristol Commercial Vehicles by British Leyland who had closed it down.

It was regrettable that BAe should be denigrated by the Opposition when it produced goods that the world wanted to buy and employed many thousands of people.

Mr Clarke said that the country must never go back to the days when politicians decided their judgement and commercial logic made more sense than that of businessmen.

Mr Robin Corbett (Birmingham, Edingdon, Lab) said that almost £3,000 million of taxpayers' money had gone in supporting Austin Rover. What guarantee could the Government give that the taxpayer would get a return on that money?

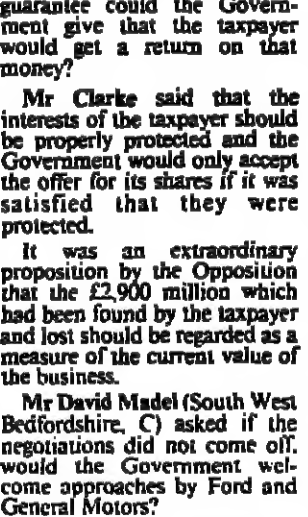
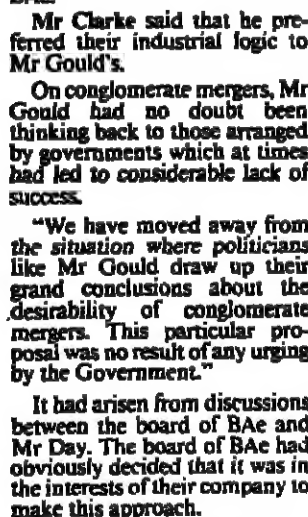
Mr Clarke said that the interests of the taxpayer should be properly protected and the Government would only accept the offer for its shares if it was satisfied that they were protected.

It was an extraordinary proposition by the Opposition that the £2,900 million which had been found by the taxpayer and lost should be regarded as a measure of the current value of the business.

Mr David Madel (South West Bedfordshire, C) asked if the negotiations did not come off, would the Government welcome approaches by Ford and General Motors?



Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the Lords that Mr Graham Day, chairman of the Rover Group, believed that the exclusivity arrangements concerning British Aerospace's proposals were in the best interests of his company.



Kinnoch queries help for low earners

The Prime Minister was deliberately dragging down low-income families, Mr Neil Kinnoch, Leader of the Opposition, said during question time. Mrs Thatcher denied this and said that these families now had better prospects of increased tax thresholds than under Labour.

Mr Kinnoch first asked whether she stood by her manifesto commitment to bring more help to low-income families.

Mrs Thatcher said that of course she stood by that commitment. It was only because of the excellent growth achieved by the Government that they were able to do that.

Mr Kinnoch asked how she

could sustain that claim when her own Minister of State at the DHSS admitted that, as a consequence of the social security changes coming into effect next month, a family with one parent in work earning £100 per week would lose £10.15 per week in cash, a lone mother earning £80 per week would lose £12.60 and all families with one wage-earner getting less than £140 per week would lose some money.

"Is this what she means by helping low-income families?" (Labour cheers)

Mrs Thatcher said that the overwhelming majority of low-income families would gain from the social security changes (Labour protests).

She thought that Mr Kinnoch was referring to a particular list, which depended very much upon whether or not they paid average rent and many people in low-income families did not.

Mr Kinnoch asked if that was all she had to say to scores of thousands of people who were working to earn very low incomes and had one or two children. Were not these the very people she told to stand on their own feet? How could they do that when she was deliberately dragging them down? (Labour cheers)

Mrs Thatcher said that she was far from deliberately dragging them down. They had much better prospects now of

increased tax thresholds than under Labour.

She was delighted that they had a new recruit to reducing taxes.

Mr Timothy Boswell (Dorset, C) said that tax allowances for low-income families had gone up much faster than inflation.

Mrs Thatcher agreed. Raising tax thresholds had been a government priority, as well as reducing the standard rate of income tax, all of which was very helpful, particularly to people on low incomes. She added that she could not go any further for reasons of which Mr Boswell would be well aware.

Peers regret councils Bill

The following report of a Lords debate on the Local Government Bill appeared in later editions yesterday.

The Local Government Bill completed its passage through the House of Lords as peers on all sides expressed regret that a measure should be necessary.

Amendments made in the Lords now go to the House of Commons before the Bill becomes law.

The Bill forces local authorities to contract out certain services to competitive tendering, bans local authorities from promoting homosexuality, and gives the Secretary of State the

power to set up a dog registration scheme.

Lord McIntosh of Harrogate, chief Opposition spokesman for the environment, said that the Bill was unsatisfactory in detail and undesirable in objective.

Clause 29, previously numbered clause 28, which prohibits the promotion of homosexuality, would not have the restrictive effect intended by its promoters or feared by many in the artistic world because it was now restricted to where the intention of the local authority is to promote homosexuality.

"That does not mean it is a good clause. It is still an abuse of the legislative procedure."

Lady Sear, leader of the Liberal peers, said that her benches regarded it as a thoroughly bad Bill and very much regretted clause 29.

The Earl of Calthorpe, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said that the Bill would increase value for money in local authority services. The Government had not yet decided whether to include the management of sports and leisure services in its contracting-out proposals or whether to accept the dog registration scheme added to the Bill by the peers.

Claims that clause 29 would lead to discrimination and censorship could not be substantiated.

Young Tories must avoid spoiling party

In their heyday, in the late 1940s and 1950s, the Young Conservatives were the pride and joy of their party. The largest political youth movement in the world, they were also the least troublesome.

They were election fodder, canvassing most enthusiastically when necessary, but causing their elders no embarrassment with rebellious flights of fancy the rest of the time. This was essentially because they were not all that political.

Their secret lay in a happy combination of a small, politically ambitious minority, and a large, socially eager majority. The YCs provided a convenient and acceptable setting for nice, mostly middle-class, young people to get to know their contemporaries, especially of the opposite sex.

But times have changed. There are so many other social opportunities for young people nowadays. So numbers have inevitably fallen sharply, a higher proportion of those who now join are interested about their politics and the movement has demonstrated a new potential to embarrass the party.

The campaign for the next national election of the YCs, whose election will be announced on Friday, has already attracted a certain amount of bad publicity. Fears have been expressed of an extreme right-wing takeover, and Mr John Whittingdale, the Prime Minister's political secretary, and Mr John O'Sullivan, a member of the Policy Unit in Downing Street, spoke to both candidates when they visited the YC annual conference at Eastbourne a couple of weeks ago.

They were not there, however, to express Mrs Thatcher's anxiety about either candidate. Her concern has been simply that the contest should be conducted in a way that did not discredit the party.

That is surely the critical point for the Conservatives at this stage. The fear of extremism is all the greater because two years ago it was judged necessary to disband the Federation of Conservative Students because they had gone too far. But one should be precise about what ought to be unacceptable in a political youth movement.



Geoffrey Smith

Improper means, either to win elections or to push ideas, should not be tolerated. Equally, a line has to be drawn somewhere between those opinions which are consistent with membership of the party in question and those which are not.

In this instance the air is thick with charge and counter-charge of misconduct. The right is alleging that votes are being cast

from non-existent branches in this election and is even voicing suspicions of ballot-rigging.

The left, which has traditionally been dominant in the YCs, is suggesting that groups of right-wingers have been becoming members of a number of different branches in different areas. There are no allegations that they have been voting more than once in this election. But multiple membership has, it is said, enabled them to vote in different local and area elections and thus to extend their influence in the movement.

I do not pretend at this stage to be able to assess the strength of any of these allegations. But clearly it will be necessary for the party to demonstrate that the conduct of YC elections is beyond reproach.

Quite apart from the methods adopted, though, is this challenge from the right to extreme for the Conservative Party? A number of young right-wingers are libertarians, and libertarians can certainly be taken too far to be consistent with Conservatism. The legalization of heroin, or of

pornography or of video nasties is not what Conservatives stand for.

But Mr Andrew Tinney, is well aware of that. He is careful to distance himself from the old FCS, which undoubtedly went too far in a libertarian direction in its latter days.

The allegation is made that behind Mr Tinney there lurk less acceptable forces. But this sort of accusation requires evidence before it can be taken seriously.

Mr Tinney declares that he wants the YCs to become a broad church. That is the critical question, whoever is chairman in the coming year. There is a danger that if the right is in control it will impose too rigid a concept of loyalty to the Government.

But if the left retains control, as the chances are that it will, there will be scope for it too to be more tolerant of its rivals. A political youth movement that cannot contain conflicting views without descending into factionalism will not serve its party well in the long run.

Warning over complacency

The following report of a Commons debate on British science appeared in later editions yesterday.

A former Conservative minister said that the Government was in danger of complacency in its attitude to scientific research. Fundamental research was a public responsibility and must not be forgotten, Mr Allick Buchanan-Smith (Kincardine and Deeside, C) said during a debate on British science.

Opening the debate, Mr Jack Straw, chief Opposition spokesman on education and science, moved a motion calling for a commitment to proper Government support for scientific, medical and technological research and development in higher education, research institutions and industry, so that Britain's intellectual, industrial and social future could be secured.

He Mr Straw said that Britain faced a crisis in science more serious than at any time since the war.

The Government sought to

evade its responsibility for what had happened to science. It pointed to the total Government spending on R & D as a proportion of GDP and made comparisons with other countries, but Britain's expenditure was only respectable when full account was taken of expenditure on defence R & D.

The Opposition's first charge was inadequate funding; its second was the creation of a major skill shortage.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, moved a Government amendment that commended the Government's intention to take further steps to enhance the strength and quality of the science base.

Government policies had transformed the economy. Most companies were now much better placed to increase their investment in research and

Britain to keep tax law control

Tax harmonization in the European Community is not necessary for the completion of the internal market in 1992, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said during Prime Minister's questions.

Mr David Headland Amery (Wells, C) said that tax harmonization was being aggressively pushed by the European Commission.

"Would she ensure that tax decisions affecting this country are taken by this House?"

Mrs Thatcher said that harmonization was not necessary for the completion of the internal market.

There were two distinct cases concerning value-added tax - those under the existing law, covered by a directive agreed by the Labour Government in 1977, and the other involving a possible change in the law.

"I have made it absolutely clear that we should vote against any legislation which deprived us from making our own decisions on the future of zero-rating of VAT."

Such a change could only go through with unanimity, so Britain would retain control over its own taxation policies.

Thatcher's faith in BBC

The BBC was now seen as a Government poodle, Mr Peter Archer (Warley West, Lab) said during questions to the Prime Minister.

He asked if Mrs Thatcher was planning to watch a playback of the *World in Action* programme, *The Taming of the Bees*.

She was shown responding to criticism by claiming that the BBC must put its house in order. In view of the recent poll showing that the BBC is now seen as a Government poodle, he said that it has now put its house in order, and is also planning to send a similar message to the Church of England, the Bar Council, the Law Society, the British Medical Association... (Laughter)

Mrs Thatcher: I have great faith in both the chairman and the deputy chairman of the BBC.

Plea to save Settle line

A trip over the Ribbleshead Viaduct on the Settle-Carlisle line, in a Pullman pulled by one of the great historic steam locomotives, was one of the world's greatest international tourist attractions, Mr Michael Allison (Selby, C) declared during Commons questions.

He said that this trip was one in comparison with which "a trip even to Venice on the Orient Express is as a mere trip on Brighton Pier."

He was one of a number of MPs from both sides of the House who pleaded for the line to be saved.

14m visitors

A record 14.9 million tourists visited the UK in the first eleven months of last year, Mr John Lee, Under Secretary of State for Employment, said at question time. The total for 1987 is to be announced on Wednesday.

NHS review

Many health authorities are reporting to the Government's review of the National Health Service that they have no cuts and have more capital improvements than ever before, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said during questions.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Debate on Welsh affairs.

Lords (2.30): Debate on the concentration of power in the executive arm of government.

Attitude to research

SCIENCE

development than they had been for many years.

There was real talent and inventiveness in British universities and this must be brought out into the market place so they could add to the prosperity of the economy and British companies.

Mr Buchanan-Smith said that there was a danger of complacency because the Government was becoming over-obsessed with the need for greater links between industry and science.

Mr Matthew Taylor, Liberal spokesman on energy, said that the Government must not afford the facility that scientists desired, they would go abroad.

Sir Ian Lloyd (Havant, C) said that the Government must provide vital resources in major areas of fundamental research because industry could not and would not do so.

The Opposition motion was rejected by 249 votes to 202 - Government majority, 47, and the Government amendment agreed to.

Equ... as basis rights i
Law Comm... fears staff
Jaguar...
More day...
PC rescued

Equal shares urged as basis of property rights in marriage

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A new system of property rights within marriage, based on the "equal shares" principle to reduce bitter wrangling between divorcing couples, has been called for by a group of lawyers and economists.

In a report published yesterday by the Institute of Fiscal Studies, the group says that there needs to be a new system of ownership in marriage and at divorce in line with late twentieth century needs.

The law is uncertain and the fair sharing of assets on divorce or death is left to the discretion of the courts, the report says.

That uncertainty creates bitterness which often leads to litigation, and that "causes scarce resources after marital breakdown".

It says: "For many people,

getting married is the most significant single event in their lives. Their finances become almost completely intertwined with those of another person, they are taxed in a different way and many of the other rules of society change towards them."

The report says the law has little to say about who should own what within a marriage. Tax law in the United Kingdom essentially ignores the married woman as an individual in her own right and regards her income and assets as belonging to her husband.

The law has moved on a little from the nineteenth century, when the wife was the husband's lifetime dependant, but it has not yet caught up with the reality that women working outside the home are the norm, that a third of marriages end in divorce, and

that the value of assets owned by ordinary people is quite large.

The report calls for a new system, under which assets brought to a marriage remain those of the individual partners. The value of all assets generated and liabilities incurred during marriage would be shared equally.

Pension rights accumulated during the marriage would belong to both spouses and there would be legal co-ownership of the matrimonial home.

On divorce, death or bankruptcy, the above rules would provide the starting point, with the continuing needs of children being taken into account.

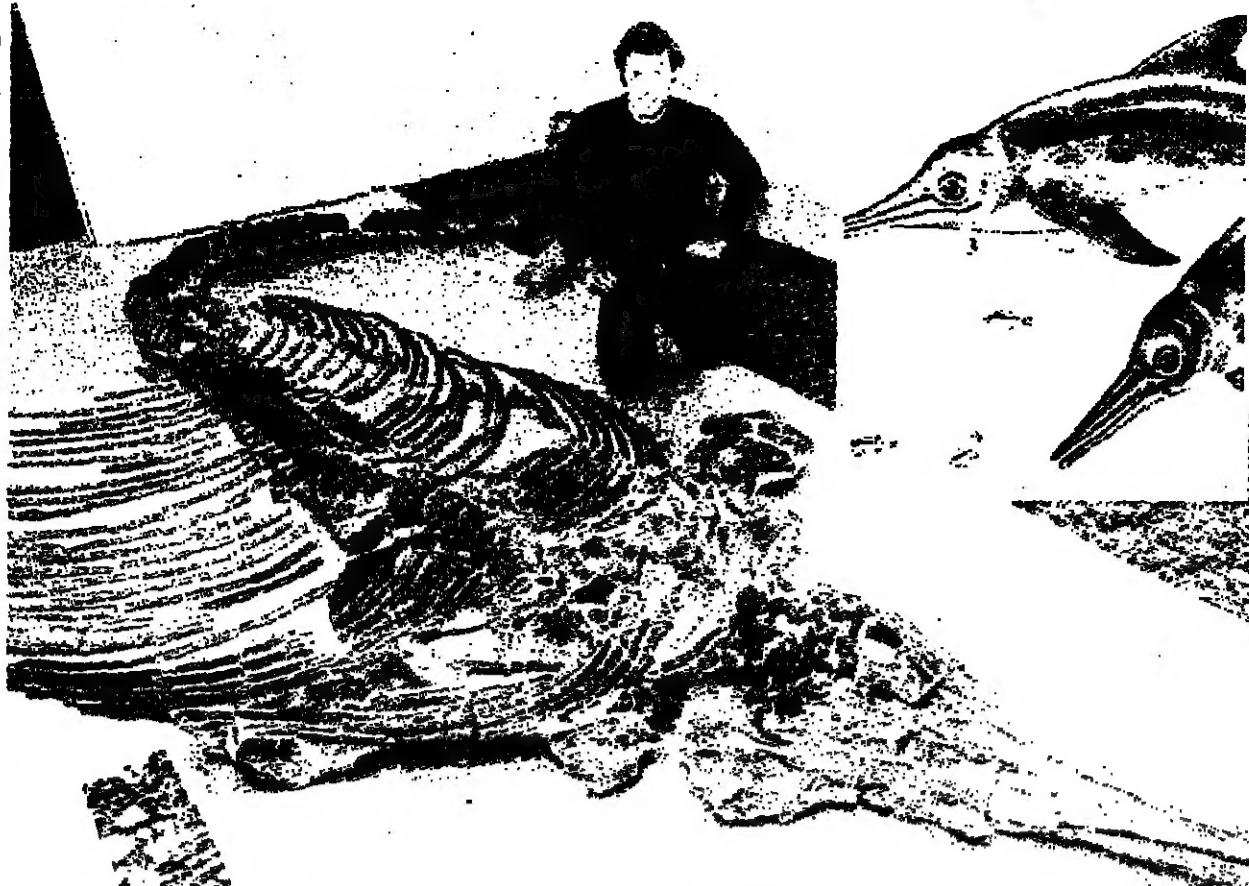
The tax and social security regimes for married couples would be modified. The report, the outcome of a two-year study, says that reforms and proposals for reform in other countries, most recently Australia, also limit judicial discretion on divorce and take "equal shares" as a starting point.

The report comes shortly before changes to the taxation of married couples, which are expected in the Budget on March 15. Other changes to the social security system, including earnings-related pensions and the system of income support, are also expected this year.

The report says those changes are being made with no apparent consideration of how they interact with family property law. All that makes change more imperative, it says.

Property and Marriage: an integrated approach (The Institute of Fiscal Studies, 180 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 9LE; £10; £3 to members).

Japanese chasing Dorset fossil



Mr David Sole yesterday with the giant fossil he found high in a Dorset cliff. Inset: Artist's impression of the ichthyosaur.

By Mark Ellis

Britain is fighting financial competition from the Japanese to keep a marine reptile which swam off the Dorset coast 180 million years ago.

Mr David Sole, a professional fossil collector who found the fossil of the ichthyosaur, a dolphin or porpoise-like reptile, has turned down a "substantial" cash offer from buyers acting for Japanese museums because he wants it to stay in Britain.

He has given Bristol City Museum three months to raise the asking price of £27,000.

The 35ft-long reptile, which is being heralded as a previously unknown species, lived on a diet of cuttlefish and squid and was found high in limestone cliffs at Charmouth. It is intact except for part of its tail.

Dr Peter Crowther, curator of geology at Bristol City Museum, said: "It is superbly preserved, a unique specimen."

"Its sheer size makes it impressive and cursory examinations by experts have indicated it is a new species."

"The asking price is fair and we understand the collector has had a substantial offer from abroad, but I am convinced one could get more on the international open market."

Prices for big fossils command high prices. The National Museum of Wales at Cardiff paid £175,000 last December for a United States dinosaur fossil which was not a new species.

The Japanese are believed to have offered Mr Sole more than £50,000 for his ichthyosaur.

Mr Sole, aged 45, of Swanage, said he made the biggest discovery of his career when he noticed a layer of hard stone 70ft up a cliff. He reconstructed the reptile after removing hundreds of fossilized bones.

The fossil will be moved to the museum

on loan for safe keeping today. It has a pointed snout and small, sharp teeth and appears to have had movable plates on the top of its backbone.

Mr Sole said: "Word quickly got around about my discovery and I was wined and dined by a dealer acting on behalf of a Japanese museum."

"The Japanese get very excited about fossils because they don't find many of their own."

"But I'm determined that it should remain in Britain. I want to take my kids to see it and say 'Your dad found this'."

Bristol City Museum is approaching the Science Museum and the National Heritage Memorial Fund for grants towards the purchase and is considering launching a public appeal.

The museum had one of the world's biggest collections of marine fossils until it was destroyed by bombs in the Second World War.

Rent rules changed to encourage purchases

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

Tenants in areas where local authorities drag their feet over council house sales will be able to have rent held as an advance against the eventual purchase price, the Government announced yesterday.

The Department of the Environment says that 10 left-wing Labour councils and two Alliance-controlled councils are taking a year to process applications - twice the average time. Mr William Waldegrave, Minister for Housing and Planning, said yesterday that the patience of many tenants had been "sorely tried".

In addition, the rule that prevents councils selling properties for less than they cost to build and improve will apply only to costs incurred in the previous eight years, rather than to costs incurred since 1974 as at present.

The Government's White Paper originally proposed abolishing the rule altogether, but local authorities argued that this would remove any incentive for them to carry out desirable improvements.

Mr Clive Soley, the opposition housing spokesman, said that the effect would still be virtually to stop new building by councils.

"Local authorities, Labour and Tory, will be very worried about doing any new building because they will not know whether they will have to make a loss if tenants ask for the right to buy," he said.

New houses built by local authorities had already slumped from 90,000 in 1980 to about 30,000 now and the proposal would have a further "profound effect".

The proposals are to be incorporated into the Housing Bill now before Parliament.

Law Commission fears staff crisis

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Lord Chancellor was warned in a report published yesterday that the acute shortage of lawyers in the public legal service could threaten the work of the Government's law reform body, the Law Commission.

In its annual report the commission says it is concerned about the difficulty being experienced in all parts of the public legal service in replacing key personnel. The shortage is the subject of a government inquiry.

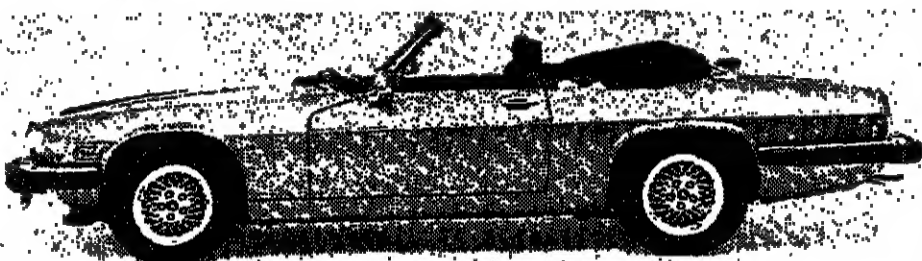
Mr Michael Collon, secretary to the commission, said

yesterday: "We are in the same position as the rest of the government legal service, except that here we have a particularly high ratio of lawyers to administrators because we deal almost exclusively with law reform."

The commission, which costs £2 million a year, has five law commissioners, a dozen lawyers (two below complement) and a dozen research assistants on short-term contracts (two below complement).

Law Commission: 22nd annual report 1986-87 (Stationery Office; £5).

Jaguar open-top unveiled



The XJ-S, the best open car in the world, according to Sir John Egan, chairman of Jaguar.

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Jaguar's first full convertible sports car since the legendary E-type went out of production in 1974 was unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show yesterday.

Amid banks of photographers and television crews, Sir John Egan, chairman of Jaguar, said: "We will sell the XJ-S convertible to people who want the best open car in the world. We know we have the car right."

The XJ-S was designed in the early 1970s as both a convertible and coupé, but fears of stringent product liability laws in America killed plans for an open-top version.

Since 1984, Jaguar has sold a "halfway-house" rag-top called the Cabriolet. "When we did the Cabriolet, we had no money and no one in BL

would give us any more", Sir John said.

Jaguar stopped building XJ-Ss in 1980 for six months because there was no demand, but in 1987 sales climbed to a record 9,900. The Jaguar chairman is confident of selling 5,000 to 6,000 convertibles a year at prices between £35,000 and £40,000.

More curious than the red Jaguar was the Lagonda Rapide, styled by the Milan studio of Zagato. Though the car on show was only a polystyrene model beneath silver paintwork, Mr Victor Gauntlett, Aston Martin Lagonda chairman, said it was the first step to re-establishing the Lagonda marque.

There is no shortage of cars at Geneva to support the show's reputation for the ele-

gant and the bizarre. Traditionally, London-based Hooper & Co plays its part in that.

Last year it was the dubious £275,000 Rolls-Royce-based Empress car that drew stares. Yesterday it was a 1963 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud saloon rebuilt over 12 months as a convertible and painted in vivid yellow with contrasting black. The car has been sold to a London businessman for £150,000.

The truly bizarre is the sole preserve of Mr Franco Sbarro, a Swiss whose latest effort, the Rohir, is a stunted bug of a sports car. However, it has a clever parking device whereby two wheels drop down from behind the rear bumper and turn the car round in a circle. Someone was impressed enough to pay £48,000 for it.

More payphones in working order

By Tony Dawe

The state of the nation's telephone boxes is improving steadily, according to figures published yesterday.

Nine out of every 40 (22.5 per cent) were out of order during the latest monthly survey, conducted jointly by British Telecom and OfTel, the government watchdog.

The figures compared with 11 out of 40 (27.6 per cent) which were unserviceable during the previous survey at Christmas.

The most notable improvement was in the London area where the percentage of boxes

out of order dropped from 29.5 to 22.7.

Professor Bryan Carsberg, director general of OfTel, said yesterday: "The findings show that performance has recovered from the low point reached over the Christmas period". The detailed test results show a week by week improvement, indicating steady progress.

The improvement produced optimism at Telecom headquarters yesterday that its self-imposed target of getting nine out of every 10 boxes in working order by next month

would be achieved. "We are still confident of meeting the target", a spokesman said.

The survey which will prove if the optimism is justified begins next week and will continue until April 1.

One of the reasons for the improvement is the campaign, reported in *The Times* on Monday, which is being waged by Telecom's investigation department against coin box thieves and vandals.

Telecom detectives arrested 75 people last month, including five gangs of organized thieves.

King's Cross fire inquiry

PC rescued burnt colleague

A policeman told the King's Cross fire inquiry yesterday how he returned to the smoke-filled Underground station and steered his badly burnt colleague, Police Constable Stephen Hanson, to safety.

PC Hanson, whose burns to face and hands were seen when he was interviewed on television from his hospital bed, was walking with eyes closed and arms outstretched as people ran past, PC Julian Dixon said.

After helping to evacuate panicking and screaming passengers, PC Dixon had gone back to the subway. "The smoke had cleared slightly. I then heard a cry: 'He's burnt', he said.

"I went further into the Underground station and found PC Hanson walking. His face and hands appeared severely burnt and the back of his coat was burnt. I got behind him

and steered him out into the street."

PC Dixon said he had gone to the Tube station from the neighbouring St Pancras mainline station when he heard a radio call from PC Terry Bebbington asking for the fire brigade to be alerted.

PC Bebbington asked him to be on the street to liaise with the first fire officers to arrive, but firemen used an entrance to the station 40 yards away, so he met them briefly in the ticket hall and directed them to the burning escalator.

When smoke got worse he began evacuating the ticket hall, which proved extremely difficult as he was by then the only policeman around.

"All of a sudden the smoke became thick and black, which made breathing difficult and visibility poor. Seconds later the heat became intense. Peo-

ple around me began to panic and scream. Fortunately, they seemed to be pushing past me into the street, but I could not see them."

PC Dixon continued to evacuate people "as best I could in the dense smoke" but it became too hot and he could no longer see anything at all.

"I managed to feel the edge of the wall and, using my sense of touch, I managed to escape the smoke into the street on the south side of Euston Road. I began to breathe again. People were still stampeding past, some with scorched clothing."

Later, while helping to control crowds who had gathered outside the station he said he had seen what he had believed to be pickpockets on the south side of Euston Road. "That made me pretty uptight."

The inquiry continues today.

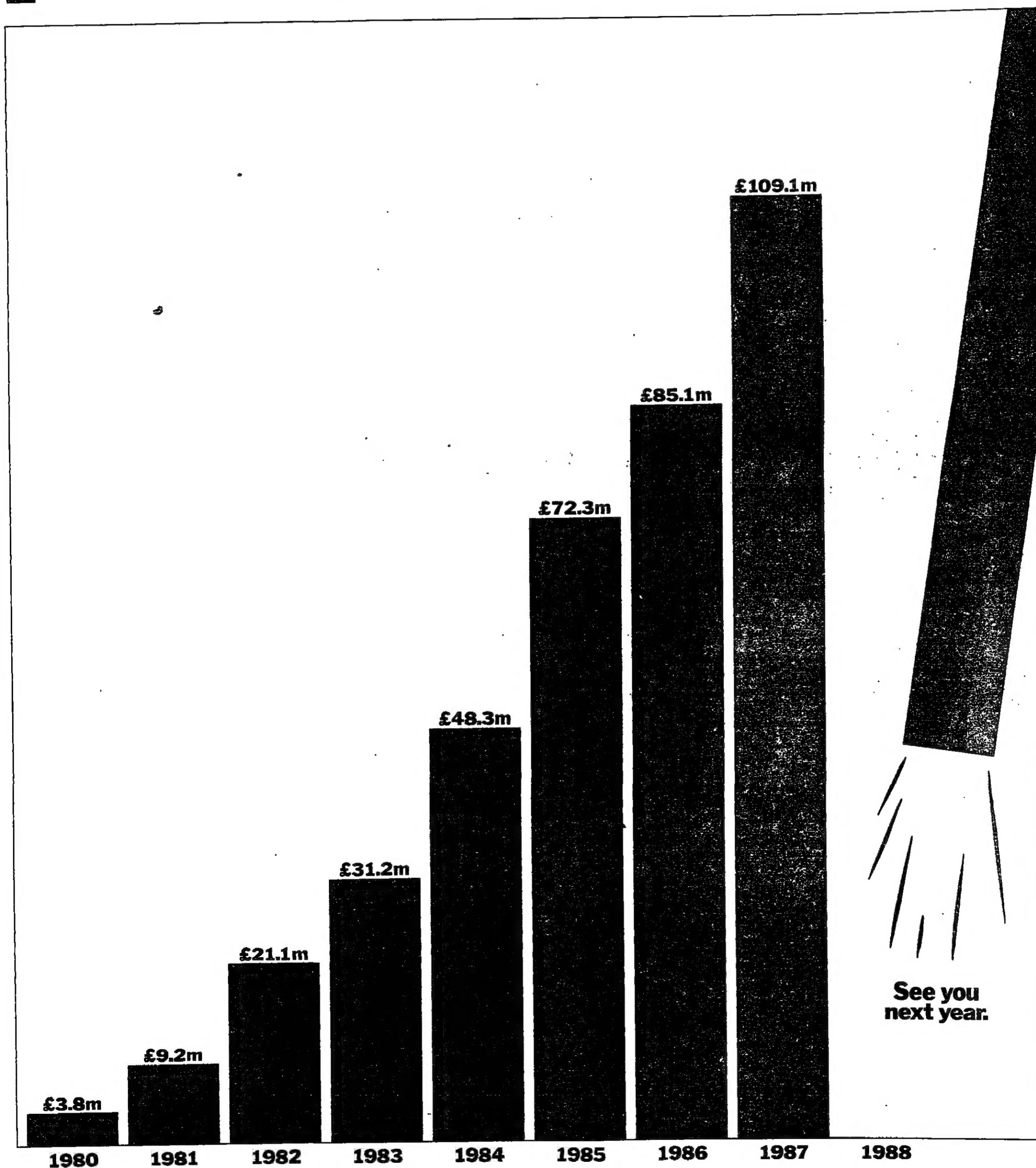
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Pharmaceutical Division: "Outstanding growth. Research and Development continued to be highly productive. The highest ever level of attractive opportunities."

Scientific Equipment Division: "Another good year ... a world leader ... increasingly a manufacturer of sophisticated scientific instruments."

Horticulture Division: "The strategic objective in North America of developing a value-added busi-

ness made good progress. Sales were up over 35%."

If you would like further information, or a copy of the 1987 Annual Report, (available in April) please write to: Group Public Affairs, Fisons plc, Fisons House, Princes Street, Ipswich IP1 1QH, Suffolk.

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THE RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.86 ARE ABRIDGED FROM THE FULL AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THAT YEAR WHICH HAVE BEEN FILED WITH THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES.

صبرنا من الازل

WORLD ROUNDUP

EEC peace bid in Central America

Brussels — The EEC has launched an initiative to give the peace process in Central America a "powerful new impulse" and has pledged to take part in an international aid programme of \$1.45 billion (£819 million) to fight poverty in the region and resettle refugees (Richard Owen writes).

The move, at the end of a high-level meeting in Hamburg between the EEC and Central American states, ran into US objections that Europe was "interfering" in a trouble-spot in Washington's own backyard, as well as accusations that the EEC was giving aid to "repressive" regimes.

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister and president of the EEC Council of Ministers, called for an end to fighting between rebels and governments in Central America. Speaking after the talks with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, he gave a pledge of further EEC aid, coupled with support for the peace process begun by President Arias of Costa Rica.

Strike failing, page 8

Hezbollah Colony 'CIA spy' fall-out

Bonn — A young Lebanese told a Düsseldorf court yesterday he had warned the Shia Muslim kidnappers of two West Germans in Beirut that one of their group was an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency (John England writes).

Mr Bahaa Mahroum was giving evidence at the trial of Abbas Hamadei who is charged with the abductions of Dr Rudolf Cordes and Herr Alfred Schmidt in January last year. Mr Mahroum said his uncle, Raschid Mahroum, a Lebanese-German businessman, had ordered him to pass the message about Hamadei to the Hezbollah group.

Disco bombing, page 8

After the collapse of talks between Britain and Hong Kong over sharing the cost of the colony's garrison, a damaging row looms (Andrew McEwen writes). Sir Piers Jacobs, Hong Kong's Financial Secretary, is expected to present a budget today which makes no provision for contributing to the £160 million cost of keeping the 9,000-strong garrison.

Disco bombing, page 8

Bangladesh poll alert

Dhaka — The Bangladesh authorities yesterday began deploying the Army and more than 300,000 police and auxiliary forces as a 48-hour ban on protests and rallies began last night to try to prevent violence during tomorrow's parliamentary elections (Ahmed Fazi writes). The poll is being boycotted by the main opposition parties. Police said that two anti-election activists had been killed yesterday when a bomb they had been making as part of preparations to disrupt the elections blew apart their house in the old quarter of Dhaka.

Poles to pay more Minister resigns

Warsaw (AFP) — The cost of Poland's public transport, nursery schools, and newspapers rose yesterday, after retail price increases averaging 40 per cent a month ago. Warsaw newspapers announced that bus and tram fares had gone up by 66 per cent, while monthly nursery school charges would be based on parents' income as from yesterday. They also reported that the cost of electricity, hot water and coal would rise significantly next month.

Rome — Signor Franco Nicolazzi, the leader of the Social Democratic Party in Italy, resigned yesterday amid allegations he denies about corrupt building contracts (Roger Boyes writes). Signor Nicolazzi was formerly the Minister of Works. During his tenure contracts were awarded for 13 new prisons valued at 720 billion lire (about £350 million). A Milanese architect and others allege that contracts went to the minister's friends and associates.

Mecham trial opens



Washington — The state Senate impeachment trial of Governor Evan Mecham of Arizona, left, opened yesterday amid chaos, anger and confusion as his new lawyers scrambled to study 20,000 pages of documents and transcripts, and appealed in vain for an adjournment (Christopher Thomas writes). He is charged with obstructing justice, illegally using \$80,000 to rescue his car dealership, and hiding a \$350,000 campaign loan.

The Gulf War

Iran protests over hail of missiles

By Our Foreign Staff

Iran protested to the Soviet Union yesterday for allegedly supplying the missiles fired on Tehran in a new wave of Iraqi attacks, according to Tehran radio.

The radio said that the Foreign Ministry summoned the Soviet Ambassador in Tehran, Mr Vladimir Gudov, and told him: "This is not the first time American policies have been implemented with Russian weapons."

Iraq said yesterday it had fired its 15th missile into Tehran in just over 24 hours and vowed to continue.

Iran says Iraqi air and missile attacks on Tehran have killed at least 27 civilians and injured 100 since Monday. Tehran radio, monitored in Nicaragua, said that the Foreign Ministry "demanded an explanation from the Soviet Government."

But Baghdad said the ground-to-ground missiles were manufactured in Iraq. Last year Baghdad said it had tested an Iraqi-made missile with a range of 400 miles, which would put Tehran within reach.

There were unconfirmed reports at the time that Iraq had acquired SS12 missiles from the Soviet Union.

In rhetoric that matched the ferocity of the attack, a Baghdad communiqué described the bombardment as "one of those eternal nights" in which its missiles "destroyed the nests of tyrants and aggression in Tehran."

Although taken by surprise, Iran promised to retaliate and warned Iraqi citizens to evacuate Baghdad, indicating that

another round of missile attacks on the Iraqi capital was imminent.

The Iranian Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Akbar Velayati, protested at the attacks in a message to the UN Secretary-General, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, and warned of reprisals if the Iraqis were not restrained.

Some observers suggested the missiles might actually have been launched by Iraqi planes flying over Iranian territory.

The nearest point on the border is about 200 miles from the Iranian capital. Iraq heretofore has relied on its superior Air Force, believed to have an edge of about eight to one in combat aircraft over Iran, for attacks on Tehran and other key cities.

Tehran television quoted Mr Velayati as telling Señor Pérez de Cuellar that "Iraq and its American protectors will be held responsible for endangering peace in the area and the world."

The Iranian news agency, noting that a US military group and Mr David Mellor, Foreign Office Minister, had just visited Baghdad, said the attacks were "dictated to the Baghdad regime by the big powers". The American delegation in fact visited Baghdad to discuss the endangering of US warships by Iraqi aircraft over the Gulf. Mr Mellor was in Baghdad as part of a tour of the region.

Iraq's news agency said the rain of missiles was a response to Iran's firing of two Soviet-made ScudB missiles into Baghdad on Monday.

Israel using film of TV crews to identify rioters

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

Israeli intelligence is using broadcast television film and published newspaper photographs to help identify and arrest Palestinian rioters.

It has also confiscated a film taken by Cable News Network last Thursday at Khabatya, near Jenin, when a suspected Arab informer was lynched.

On its way out of the town the crew was stopped at an army roadblock for three hours and the film was taken from them. The following morning, the Army scaled off the town and arrested 100 people filmed in the crowd near the lynching.

The network's bureau chief, Mr Robert Wiener, was told on Monday evening that he could not have the film back "for matters of security".

While most of the Israeli Cabinet, including Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, now favour excluding the media from the occupied territories, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, backed by his Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron, are prepared to go on allowing journalists to work.

One reason could be that the material collected by journalists is useful to the security forces.

Although Israeli television broadcasts only relatively short sequences of rioting, often taken from behind soldiers and with the Palestinians



New recruit Mr Natan Sharansky, right, the former Soviet dissident who now lives in Israel, receiving basic training in Tel Aviv yesterday on maintenance of the M14 rifle. It was his first day of compulsory reserve duty for the Civil Defence Corps.

in the distance, Jordanian and Syrian television show longer extracts filmed close to the Palestinians. It is easy for Israel to monitor and record these programmes as well as American and European films sent out by satellite.

The Palestinians have for some time suspected that camera crews might be working for Shin Bet, the counter-intelligence agency.

After the confiscation of the lynching film and the subsequent arrests, all camera crews are now suspect. Increasingly demonstrators cover their heads with keffiyeh headscarves to avoid identification in pictures.

The security establishment is quite open about the use it makes of pictures.

Mr Rabin said this week: "You expect us to arrest soldiers who are filmed doing things wrong, why shouldn't we arrest Palestinians we see doing things wrong on the same films?"

Meanwhile, Mr Moshe Al-Shamir said angrily on Monday that, if excluding the media reduced the damage, "I wouldn't rule it out." He went on: "When the world media seizes on a few aberrations and sees them as the essence and as the whole picture, a crying injustice is done to Israel in general and the IDF (Israeli Defence Force) in particular. IDF soldiers are doing a difficult job with dedication and with maximum self-restraint."

The underground leadership committee of the Palestinian uprising has been circulating thousands of copies of its ninth leaflet calling for more demonstrations. Palestinian flag-waving and a continuing strike.

Afghanistan peace talks

Kabul sets limit on coalition issue

From Michael Hamlyn, Geneva

Afghanistan yesterday made it quite clear that it was not going to tolerate any "new subjects" being broached at the Geneva talks, which open today.

The Afghan Foreign Minister, Mr Abdul Wakil, said that he expected the talks would reach a satisfactory conclusion, and that as far as his team was concerned "the Afghan side would raise no new points, no new subject that will bring about any obstruction".

He declared in plain terms: "Nothing new could be raised in the Geneva talks that could run counter to what norms have been agreed upon already."

Mr Wakil specifically ruled out any further discussion of the supply of aid to guerrillas inside or outside Afghanistan, saying that it had already been agreed that it would stop as the Russian withdrawal begins, 60 days after the Geneva instruments are signed.

He also made it clear that the question of the establishment of a coalition government was one exclusively for the Afghans themselves.

When asked whether Señor Diego Cordóvez, the United Nations Under Secretary-

General who is mediating the present talks, would be able to act as mediator in the establishment of such a government, he said: "We are not going to confuse points that exist among the Afghans themselves with other things. This can only be expedited by Afghans, and among Afghans themselves, and not with any other side."

The Pakistani delegation, which also arrived in Geneva last night, has been expecting to raise the establishment of an interim government at the talks this week. The cur-

rejection of the idea by the Afghan delegation, before it had even set foot in the city, will sharpen the acute dilemma that the Pakistanis are facing.

They are being pressed by their opposition parties and by a great weight of public opinion to sign the Geneva accord without further delay in order to expedite the withdrawal of Russian troops, but the Pakistani Government believes that without an agreed interim government in place the three million refugees in Pakistan will not want to return.

The Afghan minister yesterday indicated that the establishment of a coalition government will be done through the process of national reconciliation, which was started a year ago. But he was completely conciliatory about the kind of shape the government might take.

Asked whether President Najibullah would step down, Mr Wakil repeated what the President has already said: "We in the Afghan leadership, in order to bring about peace, not only categorically consent to sacrifice our posts, but also

to sacrifice our blood, our lives. This is the kind of faith with which the Afghan Government is conducting its affairs."

Mr Wakil added that the regime was not imposing any kind of preconditions on the establishment of a coalition government. "All Afghans living anywhere, opposition or not, can take part in the formation of any government," he said, but "within the framework of the national reconciliation policy".

He appeared to think that the unreconciled attitude of the Mujahidin leadership outside Afghanistan, who have refused to negotiate with his Government, was unlikely to be an obstacle to the successful establishment of a broad-based government. He spoke of the second-rank leaders, those who actually command the rebel forces within Afghanistan, as being prepared to end the talks.

"Not all groups have totally rejected this policy," he said. "The second-rank commanders have different ways of thinking. They say," he added derisively, "that the leaders of the alliance of seven have played only a logistical role in the struggle for Afghanistan."

Pakistan border bombs kill eight

Thal, Pakistan — A bomb exploded in the kitchen of the government rest house in Peshawar yesterday, killing one person and injuring another two, despite a crackdown by Pakistani police and soldiers in an attempt to thwart attacks (Edward Gorman writes).

At the Zaris Khan market in the centre of the North West Frontier Province town of Thal, there are still bloodstains at the grocer's shop where seven people were killed on Saturday after a bomb on the back of a motorcycle exploded in the crowded bazaar.

The bombing, which left another nine — mostly Afghan refugees — seriously injured, is seen here as an attempt by the Soviet-backed Kabul Government to intimidate Pakistan into signing the Geneva accord this week.

On all main routes leading to the Afghan border this week, police and army units were

stopping large numbers of vehicles and conducting body searches of the occupants, who were made to line up beside the road.

The bombings, which have claimed hundreds of lives over the past two years, are generally believed to be the work of the KGB-trained Afghan secret police, or Khad, which sends agents across the border or, in the case of Thal, appears to have hired local tribesmen to plant the bombs.

Intense battles: Fighting around Kabul, the Afghan capital, remained "unusually intense for winter" during the past week, according to Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad. The diplomats also report further departures of regime officials and their families in the Soviet Union and to other friendly countries — notably India — amid continuing rumours of a Soviet withdrawal.

Bush plays for high stakes in South Carolina

From Michael Binyon, Charleston, South Carolina

As the US presidential candidates struggle to find a message and platform in the sprawling campaign field of the South, all eyes turn to South Carolina.

Republicans here will vote on Saturday, and the contest will see the outcome of the contest as a crucial indicator of their strength on "Super Tuesday" next week.

The contest puts Vice-President George Bush in a head-on clash with Mr Pat Robertson. Both have said they must win here, and for both the stakes are high.

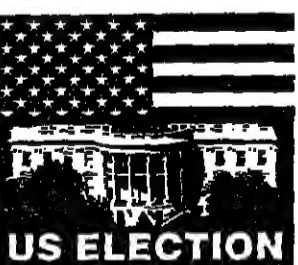
A defeat for Mr Bush would throw into doubt all the polls that now give him a comfortable lead in the South. It would be his fourth defeat by Mr Robertson, a devastating indicator that he has not captured the loyalty of the Republican right.

But Mr Robertson's chances would also be greatly damaged

if he lost — confirming suspicions that he has overreached himself and hurt his campaign with recent wild and unsubstantiated claims. If he cannot win here, his best hope, he is unlikely ever to pull off a victory elsewhere.

South Carolina is natural territory for the former evangelist. The heart of the Bible Belt, it has a strong fundamentalist tradition, and has long been fertile ground for evangelical preachers.

The state is also ripe for a message of populist protest. Away from the lush fertility of this historic and thriving jewel of the Old South, there is poverty and depression. Textile workers have been hard hit by foreign competition. New investment is sluggish. South Carolina has been passed by in the boom now sweeping growth in neighbouring Georgia and North Carolina.



Poor whites are expected to turn out in strength for Mr Robertson, a fellow Southerner whose conservatism appeals to a state still fiercely hostile to Northern liberalism.

It is no wonder, therefore, that the Republicans are paying special attention to this contest. Mr Bush came here on Monday evening with a message as belligerently conservative as he has ever espoused.

"I'm proud that we kicked Fidel Castro out of Grenada... I'm proud we're helping to win the war in Angola and Afghanistan. I'm proud we've

done our utmost to help those who are fighting for freedom in Nicaragua, until Congress went ahead and pulled the plug in their infinite wisdom.

He spoke long and loud about the need for toughness and for US leadership of the free world. He produced the veteran symbol of conservatism, Mr Barry Goldwater, the former senator whose endorsement was so valuable in New Hampshire.

Senator Robert Dole, Mr Bush's main rival, had been all but shut out of this race. But he has just picked up the endorsement of another symbol of Southern conservatism, South Carolina's own Senator Strom Thurmond.

The 85-year-old former embodiment of segregationist inflexibility, who has changed his racial views but not his conservatism, is still a powerful force.

The fourth Republican contender, Mr Jack Kemp, is still

far behind in the race — both here and throughout the South. He arrived in Columbia, the state capital, yesterday, to try to boost his conservative alternative to what he calls the Bush-Dole talk-alikes, and to portray himself as the true inheritor of the Reagan mantle.

But though the President still remains immensely popular here, Southerners have little time for the New York congressman.

The Democrats do not hold their primary here until after Super Tuesday, and so South Carolina is not the litmus test it is for the Republicans.

For one man, however, it is of emotional importance. The Rev Jesse Jackson is a native of the state, and is using this Southern base to mobilize the black vote. Fellow Democrats have now virtually conceded the entire black constituency to him. Mr Jackson was also campaigning yesterday in his home town of Greenville.



Roberto Succo: At least six victims since January.

assaults. The Swiss suspect him of being responsible for more violent crimes after he had slipped across the border last month.

After being detained without a struggle near his home village of Conegliano, the police asked Succo to state his profession. "I'm a killer, so I kill people," replied the pale, slight young man, who was committed to an Italian psychiatric hospital at the age of 19 after murdering his parents when they refused him use of the family car.

As far as can be established, Succo went on the run about two years ago. Nobody knows when he arrived in France or how he managed to evade the authorities there and in Switzerland for so long.

As one Paris newspaper marvelled yesterday: "He had no gang behind him, no friends to shelter with, no big money to help him on this extraordinary trail."

On the surface, Succo may well be one of the first Western European examples of what has become known in the US as a "serial killer". Constantly on the move, selecting victims at random whenever the urge to strike again occurs, they have often proved desperately hard to track down.

Succo has apparently been enjoying himself boasting to the Italian authorities about how easy it was to keep ahead of the police.

Even now, it is possible that he will never have to face French justice. Some reports suggest that, having originally been declared mentally unfit for trial in Italy, Succo cannot be extradited for proceedings elsewhere. It seems certain that the Italians will want to try him first for various crimes committed before his destructive descent on France.

● TREVISIO: Succo was in hospital yesterday after plunging from a prison roof in this Italian town in a renewed escape bid (AFP reports).

Botha anxious to halt drift to the right

From Michael Horasby Johannesburg

White voters go to the polls today in parliamentary elections in two rural Transvaal constituencies which are expected to confirm that right-wing reaction to the South African Government's modest relaxation of apartheid is growing.

The two main contestants are President Botha's National Party and the Conservative Party of Dr Andries Treurnicht, which won both seats — Schweizer-Reneke in south-west Transvaal and Standerton in south-east Transvaal, at the white general election last May.

Mr Botha, whose party held both seats continuously for 39 years, can realistically hope only to show that there has been no further marked increase in the CP's popularity over the past 10 months.

Conversely, the loss of one or other of the seats by Dr Treurnicht's CP, against all

predictions, would have a devastating effect on its future prospects, dispelling the impression that it is riding a growing wave of support.

The 22,500 white voters of Standerton, a large area stretching from south-east of Johannesburg to the Natal border and incorporating several other small towns, are mainly farmers, small businessmen, coalminers, and state-run power station employees.

This is fertile territory for the CP. Farmers are conservative by nature and many are heavily in debt because of years of drought. Whites in mines and power stations, who for years have enjoyed protected employment, are among those who feel most threatened by black advancement.

Standerton was the seat which Jan Smuts lost in 1948 when his United Party, an alliance of Afrikaner and English interests, was defeated by

the NP, then propagating a nakedly racist policy under the newly coined name of apartheid.

There is a certain historical irony in the fact that Mr Botha, who has become al-

Johannesburg (AP) — A bomb, apparently detonated by remote control, exploded yesterday near a bus carrying military personnel in Benoni, about 18 miles east of here. It damaged the bus and nearby homes but caused no injuries, police said. An air force spokesman, Commandant Kees Smit, said the bus had been on its way to Pretoria, with 18 army, air force and medical personnel on board.

most as dependent on English as on Afrikaner support, now finds himself defending a policy of limited concession to black political aspirations similar to that which proved Smuts's undoing 40 years ago.

In Schweizer-Reneke, the

15,000 or so voters are predominantly farmers. The CP won the seat at the last election by fewer than 200 votes, and the spoiling role of the small Herstigte Nasionale Party, which is to the right of the CP, could be of more significance here than in Standerton.

A factor that is difficult to gauge is the effect on public opinion of the links between the CP and the AWA, a neo-Nazi extra-parliamentary organization which demands the creation of a white Boerestaat (Boer state) made up of Transvaal, the Orange Free State and northern Natal.

While the CP won only 22 of the 166 directly elected seats in the white House of Assembly last May, it gained 26 per cent of the popular vote, and there are a further 40 seats considered to be winnable by the right wing.

● New cars: In a further move to curb political opposition, the South African

Government yesterday tabled a Bill in Parliament in Cape Town that would "absolutely prohibit" any political party, organization, or individual from receiving money from abroad for political purposes.

The proposed legislation, entitled the Promotion of Orderly Internal Politics Bill, would also empower the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, to "restrict" any organization which received foreign funding for activities deemed a threat to public safety. It would also make any person who "says or does anything" to foment hostility or violence between different national, cultural or religious groups liable to a maximum fine of 4,000 rands (R1,100) or two years in jail or both; and it empowers the minister to identify in the Government Gazette any flag, standard, banner, badge, emblem, mark or slogan whose display might have the effect of fomenting hostility or violence between these groups.

American claims of link to Libyans are ruled out by inquiry

Police sure drug addict was Berlin disco bomber

By Tom Bower

West Berlin police are convinced that Christina Endrkeit, aged 28, a drug addict and prostitute, arrested on January 11 in the northern West German city of Lübeck, placed the bomb in the La Belle disco on April 5, 1986, which killed a US serviceman, a Turkish woman and injured 230 people.

They are also certain that the bomb was supplied by a Syrian "diplomat" based in East Berlin to Ahmed Hasi, a Jordanian, convicted last year of planting another bomb in the city. Hasi, it is claimed, handed the primed explosives to Endrkeit to place in the disco. The Arab, a drug dealer, is believed to have been a regular supplier to her, whose name and telephone number were found in his diary. On her arrest, she admitted she knew Hasi.

The West German discoveries contradict the announcement made by President Reagan nine days after the incident that Colonel Gaddafi of Libya was responsible for the "monstrous brutality" in West Berlin. US evidence, the President said, "is irrefutable", and that basis he announced his approval of the bombing of the Libyan capital, Tripoli. But the West Berlin police have never found evidence of a Libyan link.

Suspicion fell on Endrkeit last autumn. It followed a complete review of the hitherto unsuccessful police investigation by the prosecutor in West Berlin, Herr Detlev Mehles. During his review, he visited Anti-Terrorist Squad

officers at Scotland Yard, where he acknowledges that earlier British criticisms about the West German inquiry were justified.

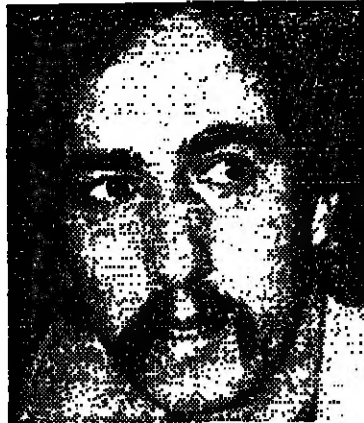
The British connection with the West German inquiry is crucial. On April 18, 1986, Scotland Yard officers arrested Nizar Hindawi, a Jordanian who was responsible for conspiring to place a bomb on an El Al jet at Heathrow airport.

Hindawi told the police that his brother, Ahmed Hasi, was a member of his small terrorist network and lived in West Berlin. Acting on a tip from London, police burst into Hasi's flat and discovered that the Arab, having heard the news of his brother's arrest, was burning documents.

Hasi soon confessed that he had planted the bomb which exploded on March 29, 1986, at the German-Arab Friendship Society in the city. Until then West Berlin police had been baffled both about the motive and identity of the perpetrators, and the type of the explosive, Semtex, manufactured in Eastern Europe and hitherto unused in West Germany.

Significantly, the same explosives were used by Hindawi in London. Hasi said that the explosives were handed to him by a Syrian "diplomat". Hindawi also admitted that his Semtex bomb was supplied from the Syrian Embassy in London. By then, West German forensic experts had established that Semtex had been also used at La Belle disco.

Two incriminating documents were found by police in Hasi's flat - his contact book, and a vague



Ahmed Hasi
● Accused of passing on the primed explosives to Endrkeit ●



Christina Endrkeit
● The key suspect ... at first she admitted knowing Hasi ●



Nizar Hindawi
● Hasi's brother, who conspired to blow up El Al jet in London ●

sketch identified as a plan of the disco by the club's owner. The evidence was sufficient for Herr Mandred Ganshaw, the senior investigating police officer, to be convinced of Hasi's guilt.

None of the people at the disco who were interviewed could recall seeing Hasi, though there was evidence of an earlier visit. But the club's four staff distinctly recall two girls who arrived after midnight and left 20 minutes later. They sat at a table close to where the bomb exploded at 1.45 am.

The small disco had a regular clientele, and first-time female visitors were always offered a free introductory drink. All four staff recall the two girls taking the drinks and leaving soon after. The

bomb exploded 15 minutes later. In the meantime, an empty handbag was discovered in the lavatories. The bag was lost, as debris was cleared after the blast - a serious error, said Scotland Yard officers, who were also critical about Herr Ganshaw's refusal to treat the girls as suspects.

After 18 months, Herr Ganshaw was transferred from the case and Herr Mehles began to review the 43 volumes of evidence, each approximately 200 pages thick. At Scotland Yard's suggestion, Herr Mehles considered whether Hasi's strategy might have resembled his brother's at Heathrow. Hindawi had attempted to use an innocent Irish hotel worker, Miss Anne Murphy, pregnant with his child, to carry a bomb on to the aircraft.

sionally supplied drugs for sex.

Herr Mehles compared the identikit sketches of the two girls compiled by police artists from descriptions provided by the disco staff with Endrkeit's photograph. There were similarities. After failing to locate her in Berlin, police launched a national hunt. On her arrest, Endrkeit admitted recognizing and knowing him.

Yet soon after her incarceration in West Berlin, Endrkeit claimed a total loss of memory and later denied knowing Hasi. The police organized an identity parade for the four disco staff. They saw the parade individually and each witness picked out Endrkeit.

On January 15, the police risked a staged confrontation between Endrkeit and Hasi at Tempelhof police headquarters. To the prosecutor's disappointment, both denied ever having seen each other.

Endrkeit's lawyer, Herr Wolfgang Hingert, concedes the only strength to his defence are prosecution weaknesses. Endrkeit has claimed that she cannot remember where she was on the night in question - not a surprising lapse for a drug addict, except he has successfully established she was in a drug centre and hospital, respectively, on the nights before and after the blast.

He claims that she knew and slept with "many Arabs in the drug world" which could have "accounted for her initial recognition of Hasi". But his final fallback position is revealing. "Even if she did plant the bomb,

she would not be responsible because she was under the influence of heroin." Herr Hingert's strongest card is the deadline which the police currently face.

Endrkeit is being held in jail on a suspended sentence from a previous conviction but is due for release on April 19. Since any forensic clues (especially the handbag) have been destroyed, the police place their hopes on finding the woman seen with Endrkeit in the disco.

If Endrkeit is convicted, not only President Reagan but also Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Caspar Weinberger, the former Defence Secretary, will need to explain the background to their certainty that Libya was responsible for organizing the bomb plot. Both secretaries insisted that US intelligence intercepts from the Libyan People's Bureau in East Berlin were so precise that the US Army's military police force in West Berlin had been mobilized to clear the city's discos and bars. Mr Weinberger added that the police were just "15 minutes" too late to save the doomed dancers at La Belle.

Yet Major Ruth La Fontaine, then the US deputy chief of the city's military police, has convincingly rebutted her superior's claims. "I was asleep when the bomb exploded and no one was alerted to clear the bars," she added. "We heard about those claims (from Washington) and they weren't true." There was no general alert.

Problems for Nato summit

Mitterrand view on missile updating draws Chirac's fire

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

A serious confrontation on French policy towards Nato erupted yesterday when the Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, disagreed publicly and explicitly with views expressed by President Mitterrand barely 24 hours earlier.

At a hastily arranged press conference here, M Chirac all but accused the country's head of state of promoting the policies of the Soviet Union when he declared his opposition to modernization of the Western alliance's battlefield nuclear weapons.

Clearly responding to two widely publicized interviews with the President that appeared on Monday, M Chirac insisted that the eve of the crucial Nato summit in Brussels was the wrong time to raise this issue. In any case, he added, France should stay out of things, since it is not part of Nato's integrated military command. "This debate is a matter for our allies who will decide, in their own time, the quantity and nature of the

weapons they deem necessary for their own security."

President Mitterrand's criticism of the Nato strategy of flexible response did not please M Chirac either. France was itself committed to modernization of the nation's short-range nuclear capability, he observed pointedly. "Without a credible nuclear arsenal, there can be no real deterrence and no prospect of balanced disarmament."

Although the Prime Minister's barbed remarks ensure that the first French President to attend the summit in 22 years will be leading a delegation in thorough disarray, some observers here see M Chirac's intervention as an essentially political gambit. With the presidential election due in seven weeks, this is a good time for M Chirac, the candidate, to take the offensive against the man he expects to be leading the opposition on voting day.

This helps to explain why M Chirac's aides are so busy

whispering that the President's reservations on Nato policy amount to a present to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

Underlining the point, M Chirac declared yesterday that he was the politician responsible for the policy of upgrading France's nuclear capability after several years of neglect under the Socialists.

From the Elysée, where this salvo could hardly have been unexpected, came the lofty word that the President is not in the habit of mixing domestic politics with international affairs of such importance as the Nato gathering. The line there is that it was his decision to go to Brussels in the first place, determined to give all the help he could, because France had a duty to be part of any meeting dealing with the process of disarmament.

Although a facade of unity can be expected when the French arrive, hostilities are likely to continue behind the scenes.

Leading article, page 11

Suharto lays down his policy goals



President Suharto of Indonesia assessing his achievements of the past five years in an address yesterday to the 1,000-member People's Consultative Assembly, which he hopes will re-elect him for another five-year term next week. The President said that, before he would agree to the normalization of relations with Peking, he expected China not to give help to Indonesia's communists.

(Reuters reports from Jakarta). Indonesia broke off relations with Peking in 1967, after accusing it of involvement in an attempted communist coup. President Suharto also called for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and Cambodia, backed the creation of a Palestinian homeland, and urged an end to the Gulf War. Mr Suharto said that harsh economic adjustments had helped

Indonesia weather the storm of slumping oil revenues and violent exchange-rate fluctuations, and he ruled out any rescheduling of the country's \$45 billion (\$25.4 billion) overseas debt. Underlining Indonesia's increasing co-operation with the West, he said relations with Soviet bloc countries had also strengthened over the past five years, and direct trade with China had been reopened.

Crisis in Panama

Anti-Noriega strike failing to bite

From Martha Honey, Panama City

Several thousand chanting, flag-waving government employees marched through Panama City streets yesterday morning to attend a rally in support of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the country's military strongman. Panamanians said that attendance was compulsory for civil servants.

The new Cabinet appointed by President Manuel Solis Palma, who replaced ousted President Eric Delvalle, was also sworn in yesterday.

An anti-government strike

continued here yesterday with mixed success. Most shops and banks in the wealthier sections of the city, as well as factories, were closed but shops in the poor areas were almost all open and buses and taxis operated normally.

An official at the vital United States-run Panama Canal said the workforce was "at its normal standing", despite claims by trade unions that there would be a slowdown due to absenteeism.

In a number of instances employees showed up for

work to find their workplaces closed by the owners. The boycott, called by the anti-government businessmen's organization, the National Civic Crusade, appeared to be more a lockout by management than a strike by workers.

At a press conference on Monday night, Señor Tomás Herrera, one of the leaders of the Crusade, said: "The economic activity of the country has been stopped by more than 80 per cent."

He predicted that the strike would spread yesterday, but

that did not appear to be the case. The Government estimated on Monday that only 40 per cent of economic activities were at a standstill.

Another Crusade leader, Señor Roberto Brenes, admitted that the strike would not succeed in ousting General Noriega.

According to Señor Herrera, the purpose of the strike was to "send a loud and clear message to the international community that we, the people of Panama, refuse this kind of dictatorship."

Libyans land four MiG23s in Egypt

Cairo (Reuters) - Four Libyan Air Force MiG23 jets landed in Egypt yesterday, the national Middle East News Agency reported. It said that the planes, flown by Libyan pilots, touched down at 1.09 pm, but did not say where they landed.

It was the fourth such incident in the past year, but it was not clear whether the pilots were defecting. No further details were given. Some Libyan servicemen who landed in Egypt last year were granted political asylum.

Inonu stays

Ankara (AFP) - Mr Erdal Inonu, leader of Turkey's main opposition party, the Social Democratic Populist Party, withdrew his resignation, announced only the day before.

Royal return

Aosta, Italy (AP) - Queen Maria Jose, aged 81, the widow of the last King of Italy, returned to the country for a three-hour visit to a conference after a 42-year exile imposed by the Constitution.

More let out

Geneva (Reuters) - Soviet Jewish emigration rose in February, with 723 people allowed to leave against 146 for the same month a year ago, the Inter-Governmental Committee for Migration said.

Strike broken

Sydney - Fears of a national petrol strike were averted when 1,500 tanker drivers reluctantly decided to return to work after emergency powers allowed fines of £400 a day against strikers.

Papal pledge

Vienna (AP) - The Pope will meet the President of Austria, whether or not it is Dr Kurt Waldheim, when he visits Austria in June, a church spokesman said.

Seoul force

Seoul (AFP) - Police kicked, prodded and dragged away protesters in the first use of force at an anti-government rally since President Roh took office last week.

Somali visit

Quelimate, Mozambique (Reuters) - The Princess Royal flew to Somalia after four grueling days in Mozambique as president of the Save the Children Fund.

Reagan pledge to Europe that US troops will stay

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan yesterday said he would assure his Nato summit colleagues in Brussels of his "strong conviction that American troops will remain in Europe under any Administration, so long as Europeans want them to stay".

Speaking on the White House lawn before flying to Brussels for the Nato summit, he said that the United States would never sacrifice the interests of the Atlantic partnership in any agreement with the Soviet Union.

"My Atlantic colleagues and I will re-dedicate ourselves to maintaining the deterrence that has protected our freedom and prosperity for almost 40 years."

He made it clear that Nato's first priority was to maintain a strong and healthy partnership between North America and Europe, for this was the foundation on which the cause of freedom so crucially depended.

President Reagan said he would continue to press for Soviet agreement to 50 per cent reductions in the strategic nuclear forces of the two superpowers, and for a truly global and verifiable ban on chemical weapons.

● BRUSSELS: As President Reagan arrived in Brussels last night for the first full-scale Nato summit meeting for six years, Nato diplomats said "deep divisions" had arisen between the allies over the crucial issue of updating Nato's tactical nuclear arsenal after the INF deal signed at the December superpower summit in Washington (Richard Owen and Frederick Bonhart write).

To ensure that Moscow is given a strong impression of Nato unity before the next superpower summit, likely this summer, the Nato summit will almost certainly shelve the modernization is-

sue until a comprehensive arms control concept has been devised, sources said.

"The danger is that to head off the German problem, we will gloss over issues Nato needs to face now," one diplomat said.

In the face of West German objections, Mrs Thatcher wants urgent modernization of short-range missiles to maintain Nato's flexible response and wants a modernization timetable laid down.

Brussels - Mr Bruce Kent, the nuclear disarmament campaigner, said yesterday that Nato's nuclear policies destroy democracy, and he accused Mrs Thatcher of supporting the modernization of nuclear weapons without a mandate from the British people. At an "alternative Nato summit", he claimed that modernization policies in the 1983 Montebello Agreement were not known to the public at the time of last year's general election.

In an attempt to take the heat out of the issue, Mr Reagan agreed with Chancellor Helmut Kohl last week that modernization could be a long-term goal. But Washington has also sided with Mrs Thatcher, saying it may reconsider the US troop presence in Europe if tactical weapons are not upgraded.

West Germany, by contrast, is anxious because such missiles are mostly on German soil and could devastate only German targets (in East or West). Bonn, like the rest of Nato, opposes a "third zero" eliminating short-range weapons altogether. But it wants the short-range issue addressed at the same time as conventional and chemical weapons, and argues that upgrading nuclear weapons could undermine the current

spirit of disarmament between East and West.

The two-day summit, which ends tomorrow, is intended to chart the way forward and lay the basis for a coherent Nato response to Mr Gorbachev's disarmament moves. The high-level Nato meeting of November, 1985, hastily convened after the first Reagan-Gorbachev summit at Geneva, did not do this. The last important strategy review was at the 1982 Bonn Nato summit on the eve of the deployment in Europe of cruise and Pershing2 missiles, a move intended to force Moscow to withdraw its SS20s.

The Brussels summit will celebrate the success of Nato solidarity over INF, and reiterate Nato's basic strategy of maintaining military strength while remaining ready to negotiate with the East. It will welcome Mr Gorbachev's reforms while reminding Western opinion - and especially West Germany, held to be "soft" on Moscow - that (in Mrs Thatcher's phrase) the Russian bear remains dangerous and heavily armed in both the nuclear and conventional fields.

On the key question of conventional arms reductions after INF - seen by Mrs Thatcher as a pre-condition for further nuclear cuts - a separate statement to be issued by the summit today will focus on the mandate for the forthcoming conventional stability talks with the Warsaw Pact in Vienna, within the framework of the CSCE (European security) process. Nato negotiators say the Vienna talks must deal with numbers of combat forces, tanks and artillery, but not - as Moscow wants - with dual-capable weapons and aircraft.

However, the updating of short-range nuclear weapons will be uppermost in the minds of many.

Greek industrialist killed by extremist gunmen

From Mario Modiano, Athens

A Greek industrialist was assassinated in Athens yesterday, the latest victim of the "November 17 Revolutionary Organization". It claimed responsibility for 13 attacks since 1975, in which 11 people were killed and 45 injured.

Mr Alexandros Athanasiadis, aged 59, the chief executive of a chemical fertilizers company, died in hospital after being shot six times in the chest and stomach.

Two gunmen on a motorcycle shot him through the car window when he stopped his car at traffic lights on his way to his office. Apparently he had had no time to use the gun he always kept on the seat next to him.

Police later found the motorcycle abandoned about 200 yards from the scene of the

ambush, as well as three spent .45 calibre and a seven-page proclamation, dated February 22, explaining why the organization decided to "execute" the businessman. It described Mr Athanasiadis as a "classical specimen of the medieval capitalist", given to the harsh and inhuman exploitation of the workers.

The ambush scenario, the language and the .45-calibre pistol have become the hallmarks of this extremist group which takes its name from the date of the 1973 student uprising against the military junta which was then ruling Greece. In its first strike just before Christmas in 1975, "November 17" killed Richard Welch, the Athens station chief of the US Central Intelligence Agency.



Mr Athanasiadis: Did not have time to use his gun.

Five years ago, not far from the intersection of yesterday's attack, the group shot and killed a US Navy captain and his Greek driver. But its more recent attempts to set off remote-control bombs under two buses full of American servicemen were apparently

mistimed and resulted only in slight injuries.

Mr Athanasiadis, a nephew of the late Greek industrial magnate, Bodosakis Athanasiadis, was the second Greek industrialist to be murdered by "November 17" in the past two years.

In its communiqué explaining the reasons for the attack, the group accused Mr Athanasiadis of investing to expand his fertilizer industry, which was a principal source of air pollution in the Athens area. It also deplored the Socialist Government's recent rapprochement with Turkey, which it called a "sell-out".

The Greek Government condemned yesterday's killing as an act of terrorism "directed against democratic institutions", but the conservative

opposition party, New Democracy, attributed the police failure to apprehend the killers to their alleged "close links" with the ruling Socialist Party.

The attack comes at a time when the Greek Government has been forced to carry out extensive purges of the police force after denunciations of widespread corruption involving protection money from gambling clubs, narcotics and an entry visa racket at Athens airport.

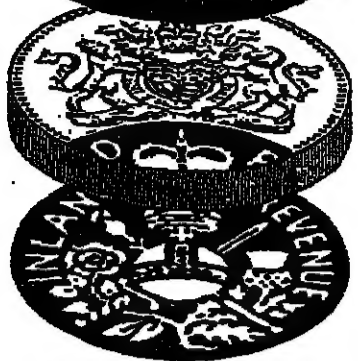
● MESSINA: A convicted Mafia boss, Domenico Cava, was shot dead on a busy street in the centre of Messina yesterday about 70 yards from police headquarters (AP reports).

He was on bail while appealing against an eight-year sentence.

SPECTRUM

Targets for the hit squad

THE HIDDEN POWERS OF THE TAXMAN



Thousands of taxpayers every year receive a rather vague letter from the Revenue asking them to confirm all their sources of income. The letter is a

warning not to be ignored: the citizen is under scrutiny. William Greaves and Vivien Goldsmith investigate



ularly catches out both the taxpayer and his professional adviser.

If the matter of interest is unacceptably rigid, however, the popular view of penalties — arbitrary "fines" over which the Inland Revenue fulfils the role of both judge and jury — is that they are not nearly rigid enough. Theoretically, a penalty can be imposed at a draconian level at least equal to the amount of unpaid tax — effectively doubling the taxpayer's bill. Thereafter the inspector may "mitigate" this penalty on three grounds: the willingness with which the taxpayer discloses his "irregularities," the gravity of his offence and his subsequent co-operation.

The two extremes of co-operation are defined as "ready provision of the necessary information, having regard to the complexity of the taxpayer's affairs, and prompt attendance at interviews," and "obstructing the course of the investigation, including the provision of misleading or inaccurate information, delaying responses until formal proceedings to obtain information have been instituted, and generally trying to put off the settlement as long as possible."

In practice, many accountants now fear that even a mild rebuke of the charge can be written down as lack of co-operation, with the sinister implication that protestation of innocence can lead to a heavier penalty.

"The Revenue have tremendous resources and can drag their inquiries out for years," says Andrew Jones, of accountants Ernst and Whinney. "They can and do use their superior resources to chase down leads and work at them until they have a case. If we can get a reasonably fair settlement for clients by negotiation, rather than spend unlimited resources fighting it, we can leave the client to get on with running his business."

TOMORROW

Those who attract the Revenue's eagle eye — and those who have felt its talons

A man in mud-encrusted Wellington boots among the crowd at a county cattle auction was casually tucking off each sale in his catalogue and marking the price it achieved with all the apparent detachment of a farmer keeping a weather eye on the market. If he owned a bowler hat and umbrella then he had studiously left both at home.

At another place and another time, the young couple strolling down the promenade of a seaside resort diffidently agreed to the approach of a street photographer. Yes, they said, it would be nice to have a memento of their holiday. They didn't say they were honeymooners but they looked happy enough so to be. They even hung around some time after accepting the photographer's receipt, apparently with nothing better to do.

Mr Wellington Boots and the "newly weds" were tax inspectors and they were not enjoying a well-earned day off. They were at work. And who betide the farmer who sold cattle that day and later claimed he was the victim of rustling, or the man with the camera who had somehow forgotten to list professional photography as one of his sidelines.

Every year thousands of taxpayers — and some non-taxpayers

— receive a brief and rather vague letter from the Inland Revenue asking them to confirm that their last return showed all their sources of income. "These letters are not issued haphazardly in the hope of pricking the occasional conscience," a former tax inspector says. "They are always inspired by at least one piece of information held by the tax inspector which suggests that his target taxpayer is less than completely honest."

Such undercover operations might be regarded as a little sneaky, but if they do succeed in flushing out a deliberate tax evader then everyone — the Revenue, the honest taxpayer and particularly the full-time employee with an inflexible PAYE commitment — is the beneficiary. They are, however, symptomatic of the Treasury's new determination to fill the nation's coffers by whatever means it can.

This determination has, in recent years, led to the formation of a number of highly trained "hit squads" such as the Inquiry Branch, the Special Office, the Board's Investigation Office and the Special Investigation Section. These detective departments do not confine themselves to massive fraud inquiries like the Lester Piggott case — although that case did graphically dem-

onstrate their power range, with investigators descending on trainers, jockeys, owners, the Jockey Club and race courses all over Britain. They can, and often do, home in on mistakes and misunderstandings in the returns of people who are innocent of any criminal intent.

And it is the subsequent bargaining power, the one-sided "deals" and the "penalties" contained within the tax departments' armoury, which is beginning to alarm the accountancy profession.

An inspector may, for instance, write to the subject of an investiga-

tion, advising him that the department has arrived at an assessment of £15,000 but would be willing to accept a compromise sum of £8,000. If the recipient believes that this lower figure is still too high, and says so, he will be advised that he can appeal to the general commissioners but, in that event, the inspector will be obliged to ask for the full £15,000.

"It's no use the taxpayer saying: 'My figures are right, yours are wrong,'" says Monroe Palmer, a partner of accountants Palmer Marshall and a former Liberal Party treasurer. "The onus rests

on the taxpayer to prove his own figures and, if he cannot, the Inland Revenue is reluctant to disclose the sources of its information. Only at the end of the day, if the figures cannot be reconciled, can one hope to obtain further information as to the figures in the inspector's possession, which can be wrong."

It is entirely at the discretion of the tax authorities whether they merely collect "unpaid" tax after a successful investigation or also impose additional penalties and interest charges to cover the period it has been outstanding.

A clear indication of the hard-line policy of recent years is to be found in a comparison of anti-evasion and anti-avoidance investigations carried out, either in tax offices or by inquiry branches, over the last five years. Whereas the total number has actually declined during this period, from 66,809 to 61,656, those resulting in the imposition of interest charges and penalties — a minority of the cases in 1983 — has gone up by more than 7,000 to 38,707 and now dwarfs the numbers resulting in a demand for extra tax only.

The charging of interest has become one of the biggest, and most frequent, bones of contention between the taxpayer and the Revenue. Although it is a general dictate of common law that interest can only be charged on a debt when there has been a prior agreement that such would be the case, two Acts of Parliament, in 1975 and 1982, now make an appellant taxpayer liable to interest, not only on the amount originally demanded but also on any additional amount, previously unclaimed but found to be owing on determination of the appeal hearing.

Malcolm Gunn, editor of the magazine *taxation*, wrote this year that there is now "a rigid and uncompromising code which reg-

DAWN RAIDS — AND THE LEGAL POWERS OF THE TAXMAN

• A tax inspector has statutory powers to demand that a taxpayer deliver any documents about his tax affairs, and a third party information power enabling him to issue a notice to any person to deliver documents relating to someone else's tax affairs, provided he shows authority signed by a general commissioner.

• He has no right, however, to demand that a document be created which did not previously exist, and he has automatic access only to documents — not to "particulars" such as details of meetings, plans and current price lists.

• If, and only if, he has established a prima facie case of fraud and has obtained a warrant issued by a circuit judge, he has the power to raid premises and seize documents. This warrant must be exercised within 14 days at any time during day or night.

• On entering the premises, if necessary by force, he has the right to seize and remove anything whatsoever which he has reasonable cause to believe may be required as evidence. He does not have to stipulate the nature of the fraud or justify the documents he takes.

• He can, however, be asked — and must agree — to provide a list of everything he takes and the taxpayer must be allowed access to any documents which he needs in order to continue running his business.

• When more than one tax official arrives on the doorstep to request information, the numerical strength of the deputation sometimes convinces the taxpayer that it has right of access. Unless a warrant (issued under Section 20C) is produced, however, no such right exists and the recipient needs only to acknowledge the request and promise to consider it.

Off the wall, a judgement in stones

Old technologies continually fade away; but their jargon lives on in a world that no longer understands it, and so gets it wrong. The other day we referred to Frank Field's "lapidary phrase". What Mr Field had said was a *laconic* not that the Archbishop of Canterbury was usually to be found "nailing his colours to the fence", which is an echo of David Lloyd George's quip: "The Right Hon. gentleman (Sir John Simon) has sat so long on the fence that the iron has entered his soul."

As political rhetoric goes it was quite good fun, though unkind, no doubt. But why, by

marble and topaz, granite and chrysoprase, did we suppose that because lapidaries engraving gems and monumental masonry carving inscriptions are no longer familiar crafts-men, we have grown rusty, or perhaps mislaid would be better, about lapidarian matters.

What lapidary ought to mean is concerned with stones, particularly with inscriptions engraved on monumental stones. A lapidary inscription ought to mean prose of the sort that you find on gravestones: high-flown, insincere, vacuous.

NEW WORDS FOR OLD

Philip Howard

That is how Dr Johnson used it in the *locus classicus* of the word in December 1775: "In lapidary inscriptions a man is not upon oath." That is to say, a certain amount of decent flattery and insincerity is in order on gravestones. Let us not be brutally honest about the recently dead.

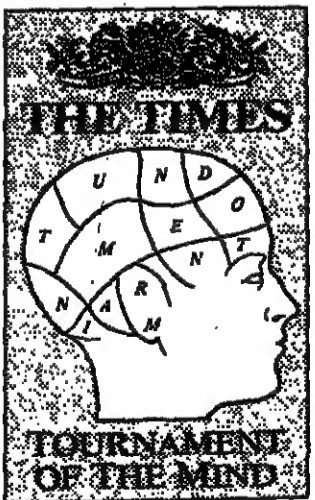
This is how Byron used lapidary in *The Vision of Judgement*: "He's buried; save

the undertaker's bill, / Or lapidary scrawl." Here in support is Charles Lamb: "Tell me candidly how you relish this, which they call the lapidary style." What lapidary need to mean was dignified and ornate, the sort of language that we find carved in marble, but use nowhere else except, if we are unlucky, at speech days and after-dinner oratory.

What can we have meant by calling Frank Field's little joke lapidary? That his was a polished phrase, or perhaps a precious one? Or possibly that Mr Field was stone-faced when he was making his comment.

Since the fence to which Dr Runcie was imagined nailing his colours must have been wooden, in order to get the nails in, we might have chosen the term *perforations* (wooden or stiff), or even *perforant* (to hit the nail on the head).

Unless the fence was a hedge, in which case we could have referred to it as *ambivalent* (hedging), or even as *separatist*, since the purpose of a hedge is to divide or enclose. I am looking for an opportunity to describe an ornamental, hedgy phrase as *topiarist*, and a decorative, wooden phrase as *marquetry*.



Tournament of the Mind

● Round Eight in *The Times* Tournament of the Mind, a test of numeracy, logic, word power and general knowledge. With 12 rounds still to go, the questions, set by Mensa, are becoming increasingly difficult each day.

● Individual players with the top 100 scores will be invited to join the finals to compete for a £5,000 first prize. And for the top school team there's an IBM personal computer to be won.

ROUND EIGHT — QUESTIONS

4 MISCELLANEOUS Score 5

If 3 = 5, 4 = 4, 2 = 3, 10 = 3 and 6 = 3, without mathematical calculations, what would 8 be equal to?

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE Score 2 points each except for No 4 (1 point)

- 1 Which Irish dramatist wrote *Waiting for Godot*?
- 2 In which county is Cannock Chase?
- 3 Which town is the administrative centre for the Open University?
- 4 Which Scottish loch was used as a base for Polaris in 1961?
- 5 What name did the Greeks give to the Sun God?



ROUND EIGHT — ANSWERS

Cut out your answers and keep this coupon until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons printed in *The Times*

PUZZLES

Answer 1

Answer 2

Answer 3

Answer 4

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Answer 1

Answer 2

Answer 3

Answer 4

Answer 5

NAME

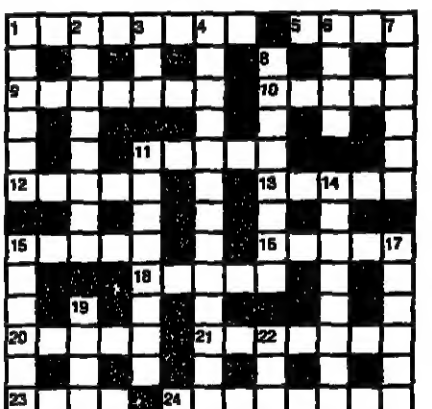
CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1503

ACROSS

- 1 Discard (5,3)
- 5 Pierce (4)
- 9 Idle chatter (7)
- 10 Radio operators' "O" (5)
- 11 Rigid (5)
- 12 Express gratitude (5)
- 13 Synonym (5)
- 15 Creator (5)
- 16 Worcester composer (5)
- 18 Encounters (5)
- 20 Destroyers (5)
- 21 Gradient (7)
- 23 Richard III's house (4)
- 24 Offensive (8)

DOWN

- 1 Stone writing block (6)
- 2 Dictate to check (4,4)
- 3 Press paper strip (3)
- 4 French all-comers' army (7-6)
- 6 George V's wife's family (4)
- 7 Fair booth caller (6)
- 8 Limits (8)
- 11 Brisk clash (8)
- 14 Explosives store (8)
- 15 Bookie's £500 (6)
- 17 Infant king's representative (6)
- 19 Smudge (4)
- 22 Billiards stick (3)



SOLUTION TO NO 1502

ACROSS: 1 Nordic 5 Thraps 8 Roo 9 Poncho 10 Wanted 11 Mess 12 Paragait 14 Periodic table 17 Ridgeway 19 Tuft 21 Stared 23 Tycoon 24 Eva 25 Adjoin 26 Lustra DOWN: 2 Ozone 3 Dictating 4 Cropped 5 Tower 6 Ran 7 Prevail 13 Quaintness 15 Evicted 16 Crystal 18 Widen 20 Four 22 Rio

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TIMES DIARY

ALAN COREN

When a humorist dies," declared Robert Benchley, "you should go somewhere that has a piano, and drink until they throw you out."

I shall try to do that, in a bit. There will be more sober obsequies for Basil Boothroyd, and rightly so, since his death last Saturday means that it's a little darker outside than it was, and others will want to mourn in their own way for the snuffed light; but I shall try to do what Benchley said, because Basil and I discussed it once, and he reckoned that it would be a good thing to do, especially as it was a hell of a job to find a place with a piano any more.

Or, as Basil memorably said: "You'd have buried someone but the day wouldn't have been entirely up the spout."

If I did find a place with a piano, mind, it would give this particular wake an entirely proper poignancy. Basil was a fine light pianist, and has planted the memory of our quarter-century together with not a few of those touchstones by which true nostalgia is measured. Like the waning afternoon at Huddersham Hall, 10 years ago, when he and George Melly and my wife and I, all marginally the better for wear after lunch, found an old upright in a deserted conservatory, and Basil played and George sang and the other two danced, and smoke got in our eyes.

Or the evening at the vaulted Edwardian billet to which the itinerant Savage Club had been temporarily posted, where the members' lounge had a concert grand and Basil so disguised "The Ball of Kinnear" with baroque arpeggios that the elderly inhabitants awoke and, deaf to the subsumed snare, applauded only the extraordinary finesse.

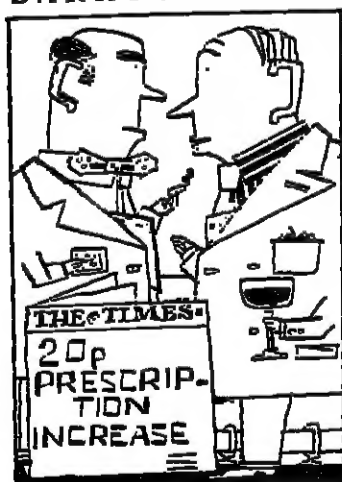
And when Basil finally shut the lid and an ancient member enquired: "Was that Bach?" he replied: "Yes, it was his 'Four And Twenty Virgins Came Down From Brandenburg'."

But the touch on the piano was nothing, of course, to the touch on the typewriter. For exactly 50 years, and in what must have been getting on for three million words, Basil Boothroyd kept the pages of *Punch* resonating to those deceptively complex chords which uniquely characterize the English comic essay. In a style that breathed the nonchalance which comes only with graft and the insouciance which comes only with commitment, he launched a meticulously fabricated comic persona into a world which seemed designed expressly to bewilder, thwart and frustrate it; and his comic guise was so astute that the innocence never seemed a pose.

Though he would winced to hear me say it — I see the wince as I write, that slight pursing of the lip beneath the blond rim of trimmed moustache as an inaudible inhalation signalled that his stuff was not to be praised — Basil was a sentry of all that was vulnerably human.

Out there, the innumerable enemies of careful life snaked ceaselessly across No Man's Land towards us, the bureaucrats, the service managers, the politicians, the tour operators, the estate agents, the dental receptionists, the jerrybuilders, the sunrise industrialists, the bumfitters, the manufacturers of unopenable cereal packets, and there was Boothroyd, waiting in the forward redoubt, armed only with a Very pistol. But when that pure white light burst over them as they squirmed, it was weapon enough.

BARRY FANTONI



'I suppose it has a sort of logic — making the sick pay for the NHS'

He was probably the most professional writer I have ever known; and consequently both the most self-punishing and the least self-satisfied. Few have worked harder to make a sentence right, or to conceal the effort that had made it so, few have trifled longer or deeper in our bottomless vocabulary for the one word which would corral the elusive thought, and very few indeed have sat like him, staring at a typed semi-colon for half an hour and deliberating whether or not a full colon might produce a more effective pause. Then coming back two hours later and making it a comma.

Literally, punctiliousness: and Basil had a peculiar relationship with it. It was an addiction, enslaving him to its destructive side-effects even as he relished the charge it produced when he hit it right. It prevented him from writing novels — "I might spend the rest of my life re-polishing the first thousand words" — and it devoured his creative time appallingly.

Once, on one of the very rare occasions when a piece I had commissioned from him did not come, he sent instead, without covering note, a packet containing some three dozen foolscap sheets on each of which was typed the number 3. Most of them had a single word at the top; some had a syllable; a few only an inaugural letter or two. In the whiteness, you could feel the agony.

But on a good day, his sentences rang like struck crystal; and on the best days, they were as funny as anyone's have ever been.

Half the households in England and Wales will be better off if the community charge replaces the rates, according to Michael Howard, the local government minister. But a street-by-street computer analysis of my Leeds constituency tells a very different story: although 47 per cent of households will gain, these contain only 36 per cent of the voters. And 22 per cent of these are in households which benefit by less than £50 per year.

In reality, it is not households that vote but individuals. Even with short-term "safety nets", only 29,000 voters in my constituency will see any benefit. 40,000 will lose. More worrying, those who will really gain are already staunchly Tory. Couples currently paying rates bills of about £1,340, who will be 1978 better off, adjoint a council estate in which a couple will have to pay well over £100 more than before. Are we serious about attracting council tenants to join the ownership stakes and vote Conservative? And over a fifth of the most politically volatile part of another ward live in households which will lose more than £300 a year.

We are not talking about an extreme case. Leeds North West

Keith Hampson finds his constituents will pay dearly in poll tax

The bill according to Leeds

provides the Conservatives, in a good year, with about 45 per cent of the vote. Leeds, unlike many metropolitan areas, is not a big overspender. But a heavy precept from the West Yorkshire Transport Authority will push its community charge above the government's notional level of £178. During the four years of "safety nets" the charge will be around £182 a head.

Take Headingley, where a large Asian community and a bedsit population mean larger than average households. The computer shows that it will be the worst hit of all wards in the city, 83 per cent of its voters losing £300 or more. Well, Mr Howard might riposte. Headingley is never likely to vote Conservative. But the market town of Otley does. In 19th-century terraced housing, typical of a great many northern mill towns, with a rateable value of

under £100, the community charge will cost two adults an extra £225. If there are three in the household, they will have to find an extra £429. An awful lot of elderly and long-standing Conservative supporters live in such houses.

In the inner suburban area of West Park live a great many professional people — school-teachers for example — already far from content with government policies. With rateable values of around £190, a couple will gain a mere £36 a year. A resident son or daughter over 18 will cost them an extra £167. So we offend everyone in the family: those who have never had to face a rate bill and the parents who see the family budget reduced; an extra £30 or so will hardly raise a cheer.

Special pleading by a Tory backbencher? I'll not deny it, though there are plenty more on

our side of the House, notably in the northern marginals, who share my concern but have no obvious solution to propose. But there is a wider principle at stake. Most of the 36 per cent of those living in houses which will gain from the introduction of a community charge already enjoy the benefits of prosperous Britain. That they do so is the result of their own enterprise and effort and a better economic climate. But we have to represent not only our own successful political supporters but also the poor and less fortunate. Sparing a thought for them is not just a matter of expediency, of counting up potential votes.

Harold Place is an old terrace, typical of the southern end of Headingley. The average rateable value today is £31 — giving a rate bill of £118. But the poll tax for two will push up the bill by £290, or £494 if it is a family of

three. That is an awful lot of after-tax cash for such people to find. It worsens the poverty trap; they would save 80 per cent if they stayed on the dole.

Ministers argue that it is only fair that all should contribute; that it will make you feel your wallet before you vote and will act as a check on extremist Labour councils. No doubt true. But it ignores reality.

The solution rests with the Chancellor. It is time that education, which is primarily a national responsibility, was financed out of national rather than local taxation. Just over £3 billion is raised locally for education. The community charge is geared to raise £8 billion. So if all of education could be switched to the centre it would cut the community charge by 40 per cent. But it makes sense for there to be a local dimension in education policy-making, and

parents ought to feel that they have a financial stake in their schools. A 75 per cent education grant might, therefore, be a better bet, cutting poll tax bills by 30 per cent.

To switch all of education would put 2.5p to 3p on income tax. A 75 per cent grant would impose just over 2p. The buoyancy of the economy provides a unique opportunity: the chance of shifting the burden without having to increase income tax by these amounts. Any sacrifice on the income tax-cutting front would be compensated by a more broadly-based fiscal stimulus at the local level. At the very least, the Chancellor should announce in his Budget a commitment to the principle of switching education to an Exchequer grant from 1990.

The community charge debate has been conducted at a pretty academic level. It is rotten politics to replace something unpopular with something more unpopular. The only chance of the poll tax gaining broad public acceptance is if it is a relatively light burden, and can be perceived as a genuine local services charge.

The author is Conservative MP for Leeds, North West.

Michael Hornsby

What hope for pulpit power?

The spectacle of clergymen of all races being marched off to waiting police vans and uncereemoniously housed down by a water cannon outside parliament in Cape Town earlier this week has thrown dramatic light on the way in which the church is being thrust into the forefront of the slowly, and fitfully, accelerating racial conflict in South Africa.

As the press and most extra-parliamentary organizations have been progressively circumscribed by legislation, the churches have come increasingly to be seen as the last unfettered channel for the expression of black hopes and frustrations. But it is unlikely that the churches can ever do more than offer a voice of protest.

Politics and religion have been intertwined in South Africa since white men first settled the Cape more than 300 years ago. The biblical imagery which has sustained Afrikaner whites over this long period has also provided a fertile source for the "liberation theology" of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Dr Allan Boesak and other modern prelates.

The story of the deliverance of the Jews from Egypt is a promise to millions of blacks that God is on the side of the oppressed and that they will eventually obtain their freedom. To many Afrikaners it is still an equally certain assurance that the *volk* — the Afrikaner people — will survive to fulfil their God-ordained mission on the southern tip of Africa.

Dr Boesak is the moderator of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church, the branch of the Dutch Reformed Church set up to administer exclusively to the mixed-race Coloured community. When he condemns apartheid as heresy, and champions the cause of liberation, he does so from the same Calvinist tradition that has enabled Afrikaner theologians to claim that apartheid is part of God's order.

When President Botha complains, as he often does, that

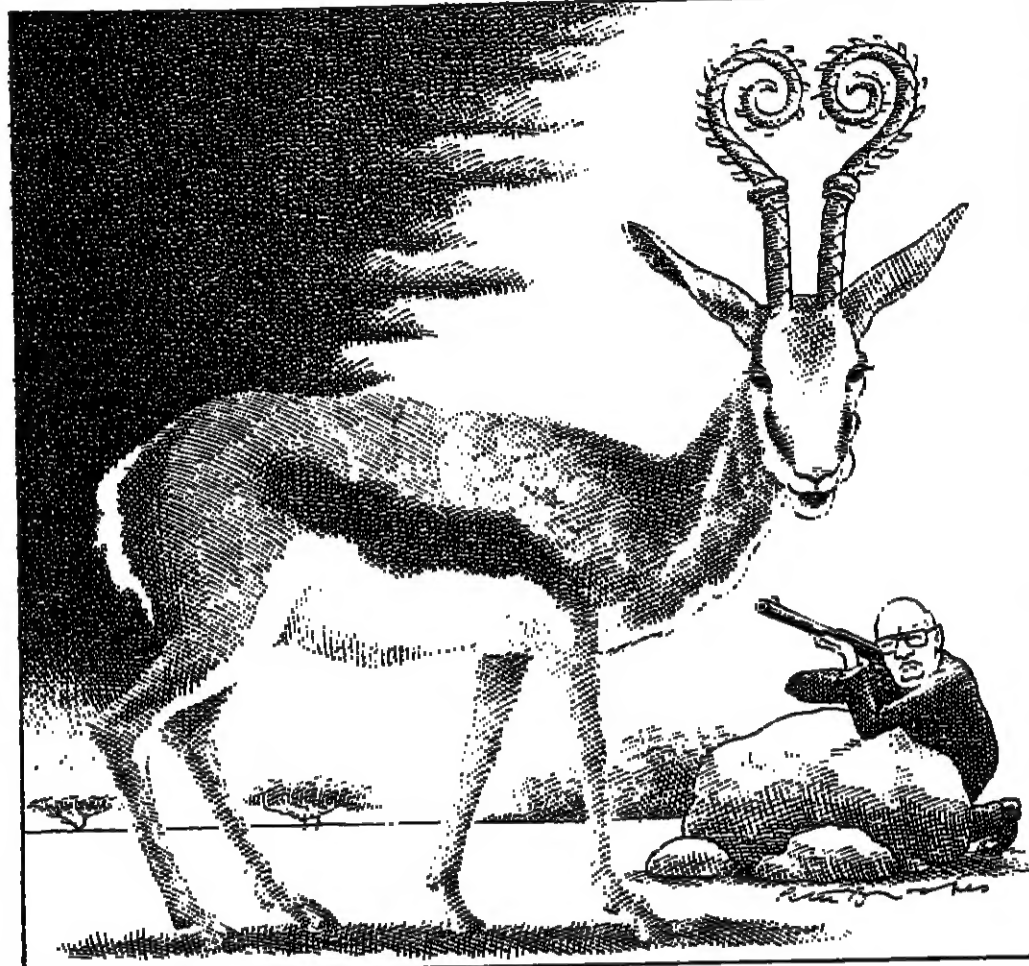
Archbishop Tutu, Dr Boesak and other turbulent priests are meddling in politics, he is denying, or perhaps merely overlooking, a large part of his own people's history and a tradition of intimate church-state relations going back at least to the days of the early Boer republics.

What has happened is that today the government finds itself faced by churches which no longer provide spiritual and theological support for the state but condemn it as illegitimate and offer in its place a new order — "God's order" — which, translated into political terms, means black majority rule. "This is an illegitimate government that deserves no authority and does not have it... that deserves no obedience and must not get it," Dr Boesak told a church meeting last weekend.

The main vehicle for church opposition is the South African Council of Churches (SACC), which claims the membership of some 12 million predominantly black South African Christians and to which all the European missionary churches belong apart from the white branches of the Dutch Reformed Church. The SACC has come close to accepting that violence, in certain circumstances, could become a justified form of resistance to the government.

In a large part the present high political profile of the SACC is due to the emergence of charismatic black church leaders like Tutu and Boesak. Both have acquired an international prominence — Tutu through a Nobel peace prize and Boesak through his presidency of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches — which makes it difficult for the government to act against them.

Tutu's fame has given the Anglican Church in South Africa an importance that in some ways it does not deserve. The Roman Catholic Church has a black following almost twice as big and has arguably played a more courageous pioneering role in



opposing apartheid, despite being for a long time more cautious politically.

This caution was in large part to be explained by the fact that the Roman Catholics had some difficulty in establishing themselves in South Africa in the face of hostility from the Protestant churches and the anti-Roman attitude of successive governments. In the 1970s, however, it took the lead in opening church schools to all races, perhaps the first significant act of church civil disobedience.

The Catholic Archbishop of Durban, the Most Rev Denis

Hurley, was put on trial (and acquitted) three years ago for accusing the army and police of atrocities in Namibia. Father Smangaliso Mkhahla, secretary-general of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, was jailed from June 1986 to June 1987, and claimed he was tortured. The Catholic Church also funds the radical weekly *New Nation* whose editor, Zwelakhe Sisulu, has been in prison without trial since December 1986.

One way in which the government could act against the SACC would be to cut off its access to

foreign funds, which account for a large part of its resources. A Bill tabled in parliament yesterday, which would prohibit any organization or individual from receiving foreign funds for political purposes, would give the government the power to do just that. It is expected to become law later this year.

Several years ago the SACC was investigated by a government-appointed judicial commission. In its report, published in February 1984, the commission stopped short of recommending the banning of the SACC, and cleared it of the

charge of being manipulated by foreigners, but found that the amount of money it spent on helping "the needy and deserving" was "meagre when compared with that used mainly for political purposes".

Outside the SACC, the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK), the main branch of the Dutch Reformed Church, to which most white Afrikaners belong, still broadly supports the government's reforms, but like most other Afrikaner institutions is in a state of ferment. Last year a minority of right-wing ministers broke away to form the new Afrikaanse Protestantse Kerk, which backs the old-style apartheid of the Conservative Party (CP) of Andries Treurnicht.

More than a million blacks also belong to the segregated black branch of the Dutch Reformed Church, which is known as the NGK in Afrika. Although conservative in outlook for many years, it has become more critical of the government but is heavily dependent on the white mother church for financial support.

There are in addition millions of blacks who belong to independent African churches outside the SACC which have severed all links with the European missionary churches. They are generally politically quietist, some promising justice only in the after-life. One of the biggest of these churches, the Zion Christian Church (ZCC), which claims several million followers, teaches the faithful that they must "obey the civil laws of the earthly government as cheerfully as they obey the higher laws of God". So President Botha, who was guest of honour at the ZCC's annual Easter gathering of pilgrims three years ago, is not entirely without church allies.

Among the faithful
The second of Conor Cruise O'Brien's reports from the Punjab will appear on Friday

Commentary • DIGBY ANDERSON

A different kettle

One image of consumerism is of highly detailed reports comparing the respective merits of kettles, how long they take to boil, how quickly they switch off, how many gave out when boiled for 1,500 hours. Another is provided by those radio programmes in which consumers — preferably OAPs at the end of their lives' meagre savings — are fleeced by unscrupulous tradesmen, then championed by fearless investigators who beard the villain at his bungalow hideaway on a Leicester housing estate (through letterbox). This is Michael Brown from the White-knight Consumer Programme...

I want to ask you about the kettle you sold to Mrs Owen... Mr Travers? ...I know you're in there Mr Travers... Are you going to speak to me Mr Travers? ...I know you're in there because we saw you go in...

In such cases consumerism appears worthy if, in the end, rather dull. Worthy because apparently on the side of right, defending the weak consumer against his "enemy" the powerful producer, a defence uncontaminated with ideology; dull because, even when it's Thaldomide not kettles, the denouement is obscured by technical and legal complications.

Product liability which became law in this country yesterday is certainly consumerism at its dullest and its complications should provide rich pickings for the lawyers. It too has been presented as obviously worthy and un-ideological, as righting the "balance of power" between the two "adversaries", producer and consumer.

From yesterday, consumers will be able to claim compensation for harm to themselves or their property caused by "defective" goods even if the goods were not negligently supplied.

The Act thus introduces a concept strange to English law of being liable without being at fault. This is slightly moderated in as far as "defects" not scientifically knowable at time of supply, which are discovered later, are not admissible in claims. There: worthy, if dull.

In fact, it is far from obviously worthy and smells strongly of state ideology. Though the current Act's effects are somewhat moderated, the thinking and eventual aim behind product liability, and much consumerism, employ highly contentious assumptions and are potentially dangerous.

The cast is not as given — simply consumers and producers — and they are not, as suggested, ranged on a simple balance of power or conflict. The insistent and noisy Whiteknights of this world alert us to another character, the professional consumerist. And they divide into two; those who are content to warn us about kettles and those who want the state to introduce kettle laws. Product liability is the result of lobbying by this second sort of professional consumerist. They are not champions of the consumer. They don't even represent him, being neither elected nor mandated by the vast mass of consumers. They are ideological entrepreneurs, activists.

Nor does their claimed constituency, the under-informed consumer, exist. Product liability, in so far as it bites, will benefit a few consumers who successfully claim compensation, but not at the expense of the producer. He will pass on any costs of damages or insurance to the other consumers in price rises. It is they last have any "enemy", it is the claimant consumers. Other consumers

will find the law slows innovations of products such as drugs which they want to alleviate suffering, as producers extend "safety" trials to reduce risks of claims. The consequent and rather unsafe extension of their suffering is also caused by the claimant-consumer or the threat of future claims. Yet others who would choose to buy a product with a little more risk but at a much lower price will not be permitted to do so. Product liability allows no opting out, no freedom of choice.

The unavoidable facts that risk-reduction and compensation have costs which fall, in the end, on the consumers, is known to more perceptive consumerists. They are proud of it. They see it as a way of forcing all consumers to subsidize claimants, of redistributing gains and losses collectively and coercively among consumers. And there you have it: the ideology. No new ideology either but stale coercive collectivism. A whiff of Utopianism too in the refusal to face some risk as an unavoidable fact of life which has to be accepted, not off-loaded to a stereotypical villain.

Of course, it is right that producers who negligently supply defective goods should pay compensation. The question is whether the costs of what are, by any common sense, accidents, should be passed on and to whom. One obvious answer is voluntary, private insurance. Product liability and the sort of consumerism it represents muddies these distinctions and much else besides. Its lesson is that you can still get away with antique collectivist ideology in 1988 and "under Thatcher", provided it is dressed in European legalese, that is, if it's dull enough.

The author is Director of The Social Affairs Unit.

SCIENCE REPORT

Spin control

Earthquakes, by enabling the Earth to become more compact, make it spin faster and thus shorten the length of the terrestrial day; the effect is like that of ice-skaters spinning faster by folding their arms. But the acceleration of the Earth's rotation caused by earthquakes seems to be small compared with other forces, chiefly tidal, working in the other direction.

That is one of the chief conclusions of a calculation by two American seismologists, B. Fong Chao at the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Maryland and Richard S. Gross at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

Their research, originally submitted for publication in August 1986, appears in the current and last monthly issue of the *Geophysical Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society*, which runs to 572 pages plus 23 pages of index. "As of 1988 January", says the journal in a discreet notice at the back, it is merged into *Geophysical Journal* with its French and German equivalents.

Although variations of the speed of the Earth's rotation are now familiar, and amount to several thousandths of a second in the course of a year, the causes are not yet defined. Some, such as the greater expansion of one hemisphere's atmosphere than the other's when the Sun is overhead, are seasonal. Others, such as the effect of steadily melting polar ice, may last for longer.

Chao and Gross have two strings to their bow, of which the first is a method of calculating how an earthquake



John Lawson

should affect the motion of the Earth, particularly its rotation, from a knowledge of what is called the "seismic moment" of an earthquake. That is a measure of whether energy is released vertically or laterally, and with a specified symmetry, which can be determined by the comparison of records from differently located seismographs.

But there is also an excellent seismographic record for major earthquakes (greater than magnitude 5.5 on the Richter scale) since 1977 on which the authors have drawn.

One striking conclusion from the calculations is that the geophysical effects of most earthquakes are, indeed, to make the Earth more compact, like a hunched-up ice-skater. But since some earthquakes, on calculation, appear to have the opposite effect, Chao and Gross conclude that there must be a bias in favour of earthquakes that compact the Earth, making it spin faster.

They go on to ask what mechanism there can be underlying this pattern of earthquakes.

A further puzzle concerns the position of the Earth's rotation pole on the geographical globe. The effect of most recorded earthquakes, it appears from the calculations, would be to nudge the position of the rotation pole in the direction of 150 degrees east. But, it seems, the rotation pole has actually moved in the opposite direction during the past 15 years.

The two seismologists acknowledge that their question points towards, but does not simplify, the central question of geophysics. More than a quarter of a century after the recognition that the surface of the Earth has changed repeatedly and is still changing, little is as yet known of the forces that drive that malleability. Are they embodied in the lukewarm rocks rising where the continental plates start out, or in the cooler oceanic rocks that sink into the Earth's interior?

It will be a side-issue to know why earthquakes seem to make the Earth spin faster until that more central question is decided. Then there will be the question of the effect of tidal forces on moving continental plates, and on the deeper convection currents, to answer. But it will nevertheless be a convenience to have a way of calculating what the effects of earthquakes would have been if other effects had not been greater.

JOHN MADDOX

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FORCE FOR THE SUMMIT

The two-day meeting of Nato's heads of state and government which opens in Brussels today comes at a critical time in the life of the alliance. The INF treaty remains to be ratified, decisions must be made about the modernization of nuclear armaments, and a common position found for negotiations to achieve stability in conventional forces with the Warsaw Pact. Above all is the need to demonstrate to the peoples of the West and the leadership of the East that the alliance is solidly united behind its original aim of maintaining peace and freedom.

When Mr George Shultz declares that the summit will be "one part celebratory" he means that the alliance must make clear to the United States Congress its belief that the INF treaty was a positive act, brought about by the decision to station the Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Europe. The US Administration (and, by now, all the other governments) are aware of the serious consequences for allied unity if the treaty were not ratified.

A still more essential issue is at stake, however. Over nearly 40 years the North Atlantic alliance has worked out a *credo* which has remained basically unchanged. It is not surprising that new generations, which have no personal experience of the events leading up to the division of Europe, should query the need for its philosophy or, indeed, its continuing existence. This questioning is sharpened by the image of the Soviet Union which is being created by Mr Gorbachev.

In West Germany the results of the new Soviet posture have penetrated beyond the peace movements and the idealistic dogmatism of the left into the centre and the right of the political spectrum. Similar symptoms are apparent in other member countries. Its most recent expression is the resistance to the modernization of what will be left of the nuclear deterrent in Europe after the removal of intermediate-range forces.

One specific way in which the summit might demonstrate Nato's continuing solidarity, would be by settling the vexed question of American bases. In particular, the alliance needs to find a new location for the 72 F-16s at Zaragoza, since the Spanish Prime Minister, Felipe Gonzalez, seems intent upon removing them. A number of sites in the Mediterranean have been canvassed, the existing cruise missile base in Sicily being the most promising. But unless the European powers show themselves more prepared to play host to the Americans, the Yanks one day really will go

home — weakening Western defence in the post-INF era and doing incalculable damage to the cause of allied unity.

This is just one part of the challenge facing the Nato summit to which the Brussels declaration must give a clear answer. However benevolent the expressions in East-West exchanges, in reality, nothing has changed in the factual basis of the East-West relationship.

The Soviet military machine continues to modernize its nuclear and conventional arsenals, to train and equip its powerful forces. Thirty Soviet divisions continue to be stationed in Eastern Europe. A question often asked by Soviet interlocutors is: "Do you really believe that we wish to invade Western Europe?" While such concentrations of troops are in position, that question is irrelevant. The point is that, without a solid alliance, backed by the American nuclear umbrella and its 300,000 troops stationed in Europe, they could invade. There can, therefore, be no alternative to a strategy which is based on adequate military strength.

The alliance has repeatedly affirmed its willingness to reduce armaments to levels which are necessary to ensure security, and has professed its desire for a more stable and open relationship with the Soviet bloc. This is the doctrine formulated in the Harmel report of 1967. It has always effectively formed the basis of alliance philosophy.

The Nato summit declaration must reaffirm this basic truth. The West cannot rely on guard simply because the East has suddenly found a leader more perspicacious than his predecessors. The very abruptness of the change suggests that Soviet policy could just as quickly go into reverse again. A country governed by a system which lacks all the checks and balances on central power which obtain in the West cannot, with the best will in the world, provide the guarantees which would give the West an adequate sense of security.

When that country is the world's second superpower, possessing and maintaining such overwhelming destructive might from the Pacific to central Europe, there can only be one answer to the implicit threat of domination: a cohesive alliance, able to demonstrate its ability and determination to resist. Such a message may sometimes appear trite. Because it demands continued sacrifices, it may not be universally appealing. But its inherent truth will find an appropriate echo, if it is forcefully put with united allied voices.

A PRIVATE ROVER

The idea of British Aerospace buying the Rover car group is superficially bizarre. But it would be a great relief for both the Government and the Rover Group's management and workers if the negotiations announced yesterday for BAE to take over the remainder of the state-owned motor industry are successful.

Lord Young, like his recent predecessors at the Department of Trade and Industry, has made it quite clear that the Government wants to return Rover fully to the private sector as soon as possible. It has been equally clear that, although Rover is formally a public company quoted on the Stock Exchange, there is little hope of selling the public stake in an independent Rover to the public for some years ahead without a continuing financial guarantee from the taxpayer. The group's return to profit, expected to be announced this week, is but a welcome first step on a long road.

This has left the future of Rover's remaining component parts — Austin-Rover cars and Land Rover — in the state of perpetual and damaging uncertainty exemplified by previous abortive negotiations with Ford and General Motors. That is not a situation that allows the group to plan properly ahead or to give confidence to its dealers and customers.

A sale to British Aerospace would have two clear political advantages. It would end the state involvement cleanly, since BAE has a fund of cash to invest and a record of taking the long view. It would also leave Rover in British ownership. Conditions of BAE's own privatization in 1981 ensured that foreign interests could not own more than 15 per cent of such a crucial defence supplier.

If the negotiations fail, a further period of uncertainty is inevitable. After the fiasco of previous private negotiations, it was vital that the agreement to seek a deal with BAE should be out in the open. That, however, brings its

own problems.

At this early stage, it is by no means certain that BAE's own big shareholders will agree to the prospective purchase, which was greeted with sceptical amazement in the City yesterday. The persuasive Professor Roland Smith, BAE's chairman, and his forceful chief executive Sir Raymond Lygo (of Westland fame) will clearly have to devote as much effort to convincing doubting investors as to negotiating with the DTI. They may find it hard to find a price satisfactory to both parties.

Lord Young will need to show that ownership by an aircraft and weapons company is commercially good for Rover. The combination is common enough in Europe, notably at Fiat in Italy and Swedish Aeroplan. On the surface, however, it does little to solve Rover's underlying problem: that it is manufacturing cars for the mass market on the scale of a relatively small specialist carmaker.

Austin-Rover's ever closer links with the Japanese Honda company will still be crucial to its future. British Aerospace was initially attracted, despite the current strike, to the profitable Land Rover business, whose international military sales would benefit from BAE's expertise. Its later interest in Austin-Rover surely depends on the freedom of a private owner to develop the relationship with Honda more intimately than a state owner might find politically convenient.

The logic of Rover becoming essentially a manufacturing and design partner for Honda, specializing in higher-priced cars, has been evolving for several years. That would not leave it a fully British manufacturer, whatever the formal ownership. But in a world when even the largest multinational motor companies need international partners, that is no dereliction of national pride.

ODIUM SCHOLASTICUM

It is doubtful whether school mottoes, particularly when in Latin, have the edifying influence on the young which is conventionally attributed to them. They are often misunderstood or not understood at all. When their meaning is grasped, they are less likely to prompt deep meditation than to inspire, like almost all school songs, brutal parody.

None the less, Latin mottoes do give a certain cachet to the schools fortunate enough to have them, and not just by suggesting to the outside world that this is the tongue in which their inmates regularly communicate with each other. We therefore sympathize with Chesterfield School which has just been ruthlessly stripped of its Latin motto by the Derbyshire County Council.

The motto — *Non quo sed quomodo* — may be translated "not whether but in what manner" or, more colloquially "it ain't what you do, it's the way that 'cha do it." This may be interpreted, according to taste, as a piece of street wisdom relative to the art of making friends and influencing people or as a profound snippet of moral philosophy relative to the age-old debate about the respective importance of ends and means. But what of it? What matters is that this four-centuries-old establishment has lost its motto and thereby suffered, no doubt, a serious injury to its pride and *esprit de corps*.

But there is worse to come. Not only has the old motto gone, it is to be superseded by a new

one. Henceforth, Chesterfield School has to head all its writing paper with the legend which Derbyshire County Council imposes on all its departments — "Derbyshire supports nuclear free zones". The sheer incongruity of this observation as a preface to little Johnny's termly report is quite remarkable.

We are not suggesting here that Derbyshire's county councillors should abandon their anti-nuclear convictions. That is a matter between them and their voters. And since the "nuclear free zone" movement has no prospect of getting a majority in Parliament for its views, we can be indulgent towards the fantasy that the local councils, in which its supporters do hold a majority, are in fact parliaments and that the territories over which they preside are sovereign states.

Derbyshire's LEA might, of course, have avoided some of the scholastic odium of Chesterfield had it allowed the school to put the new motto into Latin. Further salvation will have to await the provisions of Mr Baker's Education Bill, under which Chesterfield School will be able to cast off its tyrannical masters and seek safety under the secretary of state's wing.

It will then be able to recover its old motto. We trust that it will not, as the Government's critics have suggested, be told to adopt yet another new one — along the lines of "enterprise culture makes you free".

Video evidence from children

From the Chairman of ChildLine
Sir, The Criminal Justice Bill currently before Parliament brings into urgent focus the incapacity of the law to deal adequately with child sexual abuse. The Council of ChildLine believe that Parliament has the opportunity to redress the balance by introducing the use of video-taped evidence into hearings.

Young children, like many adults, are overwhelmed by the experience of giving evidence in court and particularly the impact of cross-examination. It is clear that the long delay before cases are brought has a distorting effect upon testimony.

With sexual offences against children a true account of the events which have occurred is most likely to be obtained if the child is interviewed jointly in "safe" surroundings by a police officer and a social worker or other professional with appropriate training and expertise, as soon as possible after the event, and the interview video-taped.

The conduct of such video-taped interviews will necessarily take account of the need to minimize the use of leading questions, ensuring that "coaching of children" does not occur and that appropriate precautions are taken to prevent tampering with the video-tape.

Such early and professional video-tapes should be available for viewing by the accused in the presence of the investigating officer(s) and the accused's solicitor. In the council's view, the use of the video in this manner will greatly assist in determining the guilt of alleged perpetrators and video-tapes should be admitted as evidence-in-chief in court.

The council applauds the concept of courts being able to use a closed-circuit television link for a child's cross-examination because justice cannot be achieved in a system in which a child must give evidence in open court in the presence of the perpetrator. Allowing the use of the video-taped interview will obviate this necessity.

As the present system stands it totally ignores the unequal contest that exists between a child, the alleged perpetrator, and the officers of the court.

Yours faithfully,
ESTHER RANTZEN, Chairman,
ChildLine, Faraday Building,
Queen Victoria Street, EC4,
February 29.

Family courts

From Mr D. C. E. Price and Mr M. Bilmes
Sir, May we comment on Mrs Craig's plea (February 26) for an extension of conciliation services.

Here, also, in over 80 per cent of disputes over children referred by us to the conciliation service, an agreement is reached between the parents. We very rarely decide the mechanics of access and full-scale trials in matters over children before the judges have been much reduced.

The scheme is now in its eighth year and many local solicitors who are well acquainted with it send clients with disputes over children direct to the conciliation service rather than apply to the court in the first instance. As a result half the services' referrals now come direct from solicitors.

We have no statistics on reconciliations resulting from conciliation, though they occur. But in this and another county court research shows that in 11 per cent of cases petitions for divorce/judicial separation do not proceed because of reconciliation. An extension of conciliation (perhaps to those without children) might increase this proportion.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID C. E. PRICE,
MAURICE BILMES,
Registrars,
Wandsworth County Court,
76-78 Upper Richmond Road,
Putney, SW15,
February 26.

In modern dress

From the Publishing Director of Macmillan Children's Books

Sir, Mr Brown, father of William Brown, is a keen reader of your columns. His constant campaign to encourage his son to undertake worthwhile and educational activities has — somewhat to his surprise — resulted in the attached letter.

Sir, People like books who have lots of adventures and jokes and they don't mind there are old-fashioned things like my sister Ethel's rotten clothes, or the ARP, or us having a cook, or the gobstoppers from Master Moss's shop costing a penny. I told Mister Macmillan "Don't alter the words in my story or the Black Hand Gang will get you". So he said "All right" and anyway he made more munny that way.

(Sined) WILLIAM BROWN.
Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WACE,
Publishing Director,
Macmillan Children's Books,
4 Little Essex Street, WC2,
February 23.

Living together

From Mr T. S. Kelway

Sir, After a suitable period may I suggest that Mrs Ferris's "fiasco" (February 26) becomes, in the words my mother uses to my sister, her "sin-in-law".
Yours etc,
TIM KELWAY,
Denver House, Frinton,
Cantham, Lincolnshire,
February 26.

Test of Soviet policy for refuseniks

From Mr Grigory Boruchovich Greenberg

Sir, Since January 1, 1987, new emigration regulations have been in operation in the USSR. The impression was created that this was the start of a more lawful and liberal policy. A group of Jewish refuseniks, including myself, decided recently to put this to the test and to relate Soviet practice to international human rights standards.

During December, 1987, and January, 1988, this group executed a number of acts as an experiment to find out if there exists in the USSR an effective means for legal protection of the civil right providing for emigration when that right has been violated by persons acting as official representatives. That is, if the Charter on Civil and Political Rights, article 2, item 3, is in effect.

At the end of December, 43 people sued the UVIR (the Administration of Visas and Registrations) for violation of their civil right to emigrate. They appealed to the Kalininsky District People's Court of Moscow and all their suits were rejected on the contention that this issue should not be considered in court, and that concerning the protection of civil rights, one should address the MVD (Ministry of the Interior).

All 43 people appealed to the Moscow City Court, and at the beginning of January all received an answer confirming the court's refusal.

The case was considered by dozens of qualified judges who were unanimous in their decision, so the probability of a court error is negligible. *Ergo*, the legal protection of the civil right to emigrate from the USSR does not exist.

On January 26 a group of Jews went to the MVD to try to obtain a competent and qualified answer as to whether the MVD is authorized to protect the civil right to emigration. The group were received by the deputy head of the Main Administration of the Protection of Public Order, Mr Barkun, who refused to answer their question, although he acknowledged that the issues of emigration are within the competence of his administration.

After that there was a conversation with the deputy head of the Main Administration of Visas and Registrations of the MVD, Mr A. V. Luzinovitch. As a result of a long discussion of the meaning of the term "protection of civil rights", Luzinovitch acknowledged that there is no independent committee (or other body) which

would consider claims of violation of the civil right to emigrate in the presence of the plaintiff, and where the latter would have an opportunity to defend his interest, by himself or aided by a lawyer, in an open and public examination.

There is no such body in the system of the MVD. *Ergo*, the administrative protection of the civil right to emigrate from the USSR does not exist.

Since the Soviet authorities are extensively advertising the activities of the commission of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet dealing with the issue of citizenship (it was in particular mentioned by Luzinovitch on January 26 at the MVD), but since neither its members nor work are known, a question concerning this commission was asked by the international public delegation, the Helsinki Watch Group.

It was addressed to the Director of the Institute for State and Law Studies, Academician Kudriavtsev, on January 25. His answer was: there is no such commission. The group was informed of his answer by a member of the delegation, a well-known Canadian lawyer, Irwin Cotler.

Could Kudriavtsev make a mistake? Taking into consideration that he was officially authorized to speak for a TV broadcast, "Resonance: Human Rights", and that it was he who answered the questions dealing with emigration, such a mistake is improbable. *Ergo*, the legislative power does not deal with the protection of the civil right to emigrate from the USSR.

Can a right exist, if protection of it does not exist?

Can a Charter on Civil and Political Rights exist, and be in effect, if many of its articles and items are not fulfilled?

Can we talk about trust in a State which does not fulfil the obligations of its international pact?

The writer of this letter may be asked if all these things were known before. Yes, they were. But the experiment has made it possible to confirm, with reports, documents, and evidence of expert international lawyers, the statements of higher Soviet officials and experts, made in the open and excluding any possibility of mistake, either in speaking or in interpretation.

Yours etc,
GRIGORY BORUCHOVICH GREENBERG,
Apartment 15, 39 Utkin Street,
Moscow 105275, USSR.

their concern for land use. The solid body of the industry is made up not of public figures with high incomes, but of woodland owners who actually employ the men, plant the oaks, beeches and cherries as well as the Douglas fir, the Sitka spruce and the larches which make up Derek Barber's concept of forestry.

Woodland ownership, in my experience, attracts those who willingly take on the stewardship of rural land with all that currently implies. Can the efforts of the far-sighted people who have begun to recreate our forest heritage please be recognised, and the birds and the bugs put in proper perspective?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID W. G. TAYLOR,
Chapel House, Winstone,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire,
February 17.

Architecture for all

From the President of the District Planning Officers' Society

Sir, Lord Esher's response (February 29) to Francis Tibbalds's letter (February 24) appears to suggest that cities need the Nash or Haussmann master-plan approach, and that teamwork only results in middle. But many of our most attractive urban environments have been produced without the arrogance of the master-planner, and others have been ruined by his activities.

Does Lord Esher really believe that the City of London was improved by the architects of his generation? If the public is "non-visual", then, instead of being ignored, architects and planners should initiate, stimulate, encourage and support all opportunities to educate "ordinary people". These professionals will learn a great deal in exchange.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL RAY (President,
District Planning Officers' Society),
Planning Department,
Hove Borough Council,
Hove Town Hall, Norton Road,
Hove, East Sussex,
February 29.

Fax. I don't have the faith in the postal service that plainly existed in 1903.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM J. STUART,
Polepit Cottage, Fearn Close,
East Horsley, Surrey,
February 29.

Unkindest cut?

From Mr Richard G. Browne

Sir, When doing my National Service my mother sent me a tippy-cake. In a hurry I used my bayonet to cut it up and put it away, dirty. An unexpected kit inspection exposed the "cake knife" and I was duly charged.

Now I read (report, February 18) that the Army's new bayonet will incorporate a bottle opener. Yours faithfully,
RICHARD G. BROWNE,
7 Saddlewood,
Canterbury, Surrey,
February 19.

Cleaning up the countryside

From the Rev D. L. Ainsworth

Sir, Mr Simons (February 24) laments the absence of resident roadmen from the rural scene. We have discovered one answer to the gap left by the disappearance of tinkers, as they were known in these parts. This is provided by the children of our village primary school, with the ready cooperation of our excellent headteacher.

Following a tractor and tumbler, generously provided for the occasion by a public-spirited farmer, the children collect litter and rubbish from open lanes blown there by high winds or dropped from passing cars. They dart in, out, and over the grass verges and banks with an energetic rapidity that reminds one of the flowing movement of ferrets.

In the process they manage to bring into the open debris which hasn't seen the light of day for years, like bicycle frames and prams, all thrown with great gusto into the tumbler.

The children hugely enjoy this outing once or twice a year, so several aims are achieved. Not only are the roads cleared of rubbish, but also a responsibility is encouraged and developed among the younger members of the community.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID L. AINSWORTH,
Northrepps Rectory,
Cromer, Norfolk,
February 24.



ON THIS DAY

MARCH 2 1950

Klaus Fuchs, the Russian spy, died on January 28 this year, aged 78. This report of his trial complemented the obituary of January 28.

FUCHS PLEADS "GUILTY"

The trial took place before the Lord Chief Justice (Lord Goddard), at the Central Criminal Court yesterday, of Klaus Fuchs, 58, of Hillside, Harwell, Berkshire, who was committed for trial from Bow Street Court on February 10, on charges under the Official Secrets Act. He pleaded "Guilty" to four counts on the indictment and was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment.

The Attorney-General read an extract from a statement alleged to have been made by Fuchs in which he said that he was ready to accept the philosophy of the party as right in the coming struggle.

"When I learned about the purpose of the work I decided to inform Russia, and I established contact with another member of the Communist Party. Since that time I have had continuous contact with persons who were completely unknown to me except that I knew that they would give whatever information they had to the Russian authorities. At this time I had complete confidence in Russian policy and believed that the western allies deliberately allowed Germany and Russia to fight each other to the death.

"Therefore I had no hesitation in giving all the information I had even though I tried to concentrate mainly on giving information about the results of my own work. In the course of this work I began naturally to form bonds of personal friendship and had to conceal from them my own thoughts."

Fuchs's statement continued: "At first I thought all I would do would be to inform the Russian authorities that work upon the atomic bomb was going on. They wished to have more details, and I agreed to supply them. I concentrated at first naturally upon the product of my own work."

"In the post-war period I began again to have doubts about the Russian policy. During this time I was not sure I could go on giving information I had. It became more and more evident that the time when Russia would expand her influence over Europe was far away. I had to decide for myself whether I could go on for many years continuing handing over information without being sure in my own mind whether I was doing right. I decided I could not do so.

"I became more and more convinced that I had to leave Harwell. I was then confronted with the fact that there was evidence that I had given away information in New York."

"However it then began to become clear to me that in leaving Harwell I should deal a grave blow to Harwell and all the work I had loved, and also I would leave suspicion against friends I loved and on people who thought I was their friend."

"I had to face the fact that it depended upon the possibility that in one half of my mind I could be friends with people and at the same time deceive them. I then realized that the combination of the three ideas which had made me what I was, was wrong. In fact that every single one of them was wrong. I realized that there are certain standards of moral behaviour which you cannot disregard."

THE ARTS

Phoney business

With *Airbase* (BBC-1), the BBC was in the wars again last night, as a group of crazy British-based American F-111 pilots got bombed out of their minds before one main-line maverick went AWOL and bombed some of "Iran's" folk even more permanently out of theirs. Alas, Malcolm McKay's play seems set not just to be judged on its dramatic merits but to become part of the wider battle for the heart and mind of Auntie herself.

Of course, mere mention of F-111 bombers and the BBC is enough to open up old wounds, after Norman Tebbit's celebrated attack on the corpora-

TELEVISION

tion over their coverage of America's bombing of Libya. Before the play was broadcast, one Sunday newspaper even sent its Defence Correspondent off to a USAF base, to ask real F-111 pilots what they thought of being depicted as drug-crazed whackers. The comic literalness of such an approach was in part a response, however, to an article in the *Radio Times*, "The US fighter pilots in *Airbase* are flying high — on sex, drugs and death. Just like the real McCoy," discovers Francis Whelan.

It is largely irrelevant, however, for an appreciation of *Airbase*, whether Whelan's "discoveries" or the Sunday Journalist's pilot-fed picture, of coffee-loving professionals high only on technology, is the more accurate. Like Peter McDougall's recent American submarine base play, *Down Where The Buffalo Go*, *Airbase* was obviously political, but while McDougall's work was a film using the conventions of cinematic realism, McKay's was determinedly non-naturalistic.

Shot on video in the studio, it was a comic-strip caricature, mannered and stylized in its hyperbole. The setting, the stagey in its artificiality, the music full of Dr Who other-world menace, its language almost poetic in its muddled colloquialisms. Its action was a ritualistic, symbolic video game, rather than life-like, though well acted and at times powerful in its writing.

Andrew Hislop

Canada's best is in the west

There's more to western Canada than Winter Olympics and salmon fishing. Chris Peachment reports on some of the architectural and artistic attractions which are to be found in Vancouver and Calgary

If the epicentre of the world's affairs has shifted from the North Atlantic to the Pacific, then Vancouver takes its place, alongside Hong Kong, Tokyo, Sydney and Los Angeles, as one of the great Pacific Rim cities. Surrounding the ocean bay, and itself surrounded by snow-capped mountains, Vancouver is a clean and beautiful city, possibly because it still relies on its traditional resources of logging and fishing.

Its downtown area can boast some of the best modern architecture in the world. Arthur Erickson, perhaps the only local architect with an international reputation, is responsible for the startling Law Courts and adjacent Robson Square.

The square does not exist as a square, but as a sunken plaza, with waterfalls and much local flora planted in it. Robson Street runs clear across the top of it, and the hapless civil servants are consigned to offices underground.

The law courts, true to Canadian form of niceness in all things, have no front steps, which would be the traditional place for unmanly demonstrations. Instead they are a set of stepped gardens, looking rather like hanging gardens, the whole being enclosed in what can only be described as a glass bivaouac tent.

Strolling along the interior boulevard, below the sloping glass roof, but outside the law court blocks, the chief impression is one of muted grandeur, which would account for the uncharacteristic lack of rancour among the lawyers and complainants. The lesson is obvious: good architecture encourages good behaviour.

Also by Erickson is the Museum of Anthropology, a building whose main functional problem was the display of upright totem poles. Erickson not only guides you gently downward through a forest of the poles, but contrives an increasing amount of sunlight and less and less of the structure of the building

until one has arrived at the traditional point on the edge of the water, virtually in the open air.

Equally impressive, in an early post-modernist way, is the Westcoast Transmission Building, which is by Rhone and Iredale. This consists of a central square concrete pillar, around which is built a glass-fronted oblong box of offices. These offices are suspended by braces from the top of the central pillar, and since there is no ground floor, they hang in space.

I asked a local architect, Richard Henriquez, why it had been done like that. "It's for the same reason as this," he said, going into an elaborate contortion by winding one arm around his head and tugging at the opposite earlobe. You do it, because you can.

Underneath a road bridge, over the bay, lurks a small peninsula called Granville Island which, in the wake of Expo 86, is now a riotous warren of small craft shops, yacht builders, pavement cafes, and artists' studios. It is here that Bill Reid, Vancouver's elder statesman of the arts, has his workshop.

Reid is generally credited with single-handedly reviving the lost art of the original inhabitants of Vancouver, the Haida Indians. Although Reid is himself half-Haida, this was clearly no easy task, since the last Indian carver, whom Reid speaks of as "my teacher", died when Reid was two years old.

For Expo 86 he built a huge ocean-going canoe in the traditional method from one tree. He demonstrated, with a few simple pencil lines, how the traditional subject of the whale is split in form and then drawn from strange perspective, to arrive at the totemic whale.

He is currently working on a large sculpture, of a canoe being paddled both by Indians and their mythical animals, for the Canadian embassy in Washington. It is of an impressive bulk, not least because the figures are crowded one on top

of the other in traditional totem pole tangle of limbs.

"It was as much inspired by taking the kids out, on a Sunday morning, in the station wagon", says Reid, who is clearly not one to play the aboriginal line too heavily.

He hardly needs to. His large wooden sculpture, "Raven and the First Men", in the Museum of Anthropology, carries a heavy primitive impact.

According to the myth, the birth of mankind occurred when Raven sweet-talked some little men out of their hiding place in a big clam-shell. In Reid's sculpture, the frightened, squinting homunculi are dominated by the huge sardonic bird, poised on top of the shell, which leaves no doubt as to where the true power lies.

Thanks to Reid, Vancouver has recovered not only its past, but its need for mystery and surprise.

Attached to the Winter Olympic Games in Calgary is the (continuing) Olympic Arts Festival. In the minds of the local population (Calgary is a cowboy town, red-neck right down to its stuck-heeled boots) this probably raised the prospect of the 500 metre Aria Sprint, or some snappy Downhill Pas-de-Doux Slalom.

The catalogue played up to this with an all pink cover, depicting four bob-sleigh men careering downhill in a ballet slipper. However, some 3,000 artists of all descriptions have descended on the town, and created a festival which has become, in the immortal words of one commentator, "the jewel in the jock-strap that is Alberta".

One of the biggest events, "The Spirit Sings", is an exhibition of Indian art, or rather "The artistic traditions of Canada's first peoples", at the Glenbow Museum. This has created some controversy.

The Lubicon Band Indians have a grievance dating from 1940, when they were overlooked in their land rights, and are officially



Heavy impact: Vancouver's elder statesman of the arts Bill Reid, with his sculpture "Raven and the First Men"

boycotting the exhibition. Several other tribes have removed artifacts in sympathy, a hundred articles have appeared in the press all under the headline "Double crossing the Lubicon" and a Canadian in our visiting party refused to enter the museum.

The exhibition itself is impressive in its chronicling of the art and practices of the disparate tribes, whether it be the Inuit method of hunting seals, or fertility rites (all done in masks, apparently). It especially concentrates on the cross-cultural influences on the Indians from the increasing number of Europeans in the Continent.

Of all the assembled artifacts, there is no doubt that the Northwest Coast Indians, of whom the Haida were one Band, produced the most complex art, with their carvings and weavings.

The city ran a competition among architects for a Triumphant Arch for the games. The winning entry, currently at the University, although soon to be granted a permanent site, was by Jack Diamond of A.J. Diamond and Partner, and is a simple sheet of steel bowed into what looks like the end of an ellipse.

This is supported on either side of its base by four Olympic figures, clad in one piece speedskating suits, straining and heaving along the base-line. The arch is simple and elegant, and the figures supply the now compulsory post-modernist humour without toppling into camp.

The only sad thing is the scale of it. The figures are life-size, so the arch is probably no more than 18 feet tall. If I were a conquering Olympian winner, I would want something a little more triumphant through which to march, to the accompanying roar of approval.

No direction

ROCK

CruzaDOS
Marquee Club

Despite a dignified and assured performance, the British debut of the Los Angeles quartet, CruzaDOS, suggested that the group may have problems ahead in locating an audience for its unusual blend of roots, melody and rock.

CruzaDOS' origins lie in the new wave of the Seventies, when the singer and guitarist Tito Larriva and the drummer Chalo Quintana formed the nucleus of the LA punk band the Plugz. However, the stocks of nervous energy that gave the groups of that era such an edge, have been replaced, in CruzaDOS' case, by an air of unexceptional, if forceful, competence. They seemed like friendly boys with no sign of overweening artistic egos but with little to inspire the imagination either.

The stage uniform was urban cowboy chic — black fringed leather jackets, a Dwight Yoakam hat here, a bandanna there — while Larriva opted for the unkempt hippy look, with his sweat-soaked hair for the most part webbed unattractively across his face.

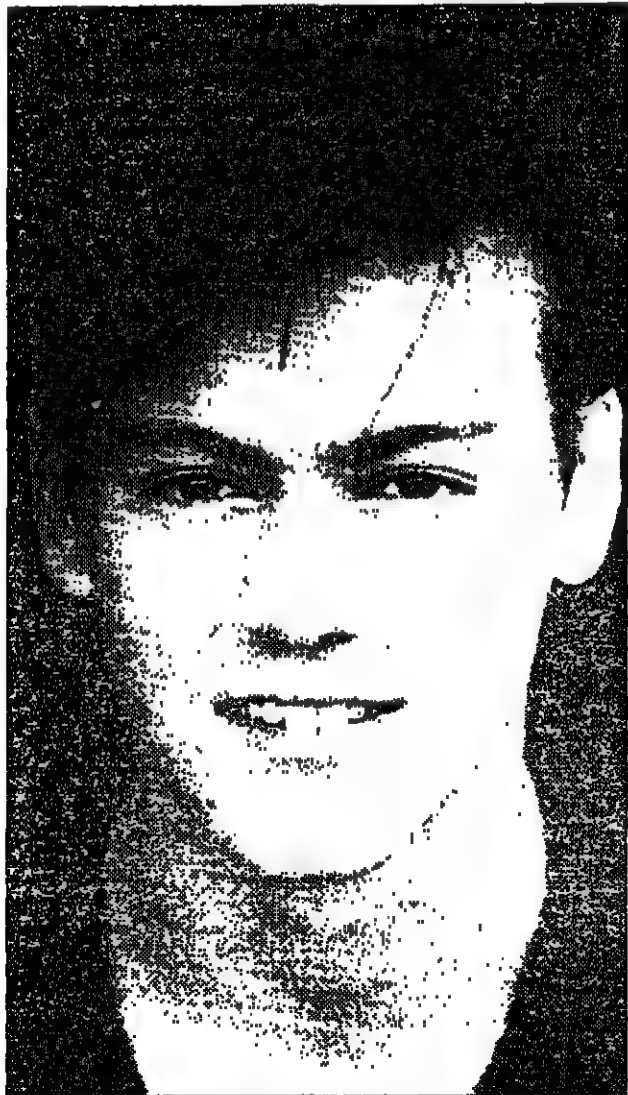
While more musically literate than one would expect their British counterparts to be, the band's tastes were also that much more conservative. Romantic tales about love and murder, running out of money and luck and "waiting on a white train to oblivion", were pumped out against motoring riffs that avoided the obvious clichés, but nevertheless sounded of a predictable American vintage.

Although infinitely preferable to the rootless transatlantic rock of a group like INXS, it was nevertheless too brash a mix for the roots purists and yet too worthy and melodically sound to appeal to new generations of thrill-seeking rock 'n' roll fans.

Two songs avoided this dilemma. One was a slow, bluesy shuffle with several dramatic climaxes, titled "Strange Face of Love", and the other a traditional Mexican song, with lilting cadences, called "La Flor Mar", which gave expression to the group's Mexican-American background.

Such hopeful glimmers of something different on offer were eclipsed by an encore of the headbangers' favourite "I'm Going Down" which provided confirmation of a promising group travelling in an uncertain direction.

David Sinclair



Into the theatre by way of the circus and mime: Rupert Graves

Robert Gore-Langton meets National Theatre newcomer Rupert Graves

Energetic family affair

It is one of the marvels of English dramatic literature that there is so much of it. Given the sheer quantity of plays that have yet to have their first revival, it is not surprising that even some copper-bottomed classics should surface only every dozen years or so: *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*, opening on Thursday at the National Theatre's Olivier stage, is a good example.

Doubtly so, since other manuscripts by John Ford are lost forever, "unluckily burnt or put under eye bottoms" by Betsy, the cook to the negligent antiquarian Warburton. *'Tis Pity* is Ford's uncoked masterpiece. Productions at Bristol, and later in the Seventies at Stratford, were the last major revivals, although there is a current production by Philip Prowse at the Citizens', Glasgow.

One of the more spectacularly disgusting — and tenderest — dramas of the Caroline period, *'Tis Pity* could be described as a morbid rewrite of *Romeo and Juliet* in which the star-crossed lovers are brother and sister and the latter's heart is famously gouged out in a bloody finale.

Whatever, it is certainly not

any comic potential that has attracted Alan Ayckbourn, temporarily absent from his theatre in Scarborough, to direct the production for the National.

One of his ensemble is a precocious talent, Rupert Graves, a 24-year-old with jet black hair, puppyish good looks, and a remarkably brief curriculum vitae for a leading player at the National. He is playing the brother, Giovanni, to Susan Sylvester's Annabella.

Graves has already become a "face" through his work with the Merchant/Ivory film team on two Forster novels, *A Room with a View* and more recently *Maurice*, in which he played the young gamekeeper in a Chatterley-style saga for men only.

Graves belongs to that band of well-spoken, if laconic, British actors who have emerged in native films in the last few years. His entrée into the theatre was unusual. "I had very little education and left school with one O level. Through the Weston-super-Mare JobCentre I got a job with a circus — an offshoot of Chippierfields. At the time I think I did want to act, but not enough to do much about it. Eventually, though, I got an

agent from the back of *The Stage* and applied to Equity in Wales as a mime artist." After very few theatre appearances, he now finds himself recruited to the National, snapped up after Frank Hauser's pub theatre revival of Shaw's *Candida*, in which the inexperienced circus clown tackled, with great success, the difficult role of the nervy, aristocratic poet Marchbanks. He would have gone with the play into the West End had not other commitments intervened.

Graves has found that he has had to learn very quickly indeed. He has the benefit of the company of distinguished actors such as Clive Francis — *'Tis Pity* is an intense story of revenge and public honour — something we don't really understand now. When I started rehearsing, I found trouble with the verse — I couldn't get through it without getting tangled. I was told to read a book on late Shakespeare by John Barton and that suddenly liberated the whole text for me: I stumbled across the way to do this thing called the iambic pentameter — it was a wonderful moment!

"I'm only just beginning to realize how different film and

theatre are. In cinema you work out of sequence, build a framework and fill it in. Of course, you just can't do that in the theatre.

"There's not a great deal of poetry in this work but the play is very, very fast, with short scenes and without any of that Shakespearean coincidence."

As Giovanni, Graves is playing intuitively. "I don't have (yet) much technique, so I apply a great deal of energy to the role." Asked if his is the high calorie approach to stage acting, he replies that it is more F-plan.

"The energy is appropriate, as Giovanni makes so much happen. He's brilliantly logical, a manic depressive with great swings of mood, capable of arguing brilliantly but caught up in this great love for his sister."

Will Annabella's bleeding heart, we want to know, be a real one from a butcher's or a plastic model? Graves is not sure, but production economies are a sore point. "Actually, it's my only complaint. There's a thing going on at the moment about us not being allowed to get blood over the costumes. But I've got to stab someone!"

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After Schubert

CONCERTS

YMSO/Blair
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Once upon a time, when you perused a score of Schubert's Ninth Symphony, you might find the cover had printed on it "Symphony No 7", since the work was the seventh such piece which Schubert completed. That, however, was before Brian Newbould set to work on the surviving fragments of some unfinished symphonies. Now, thanks to his reconstructions, the Ninth has to be called the Ninth and we can hear the real Seventh.

Or can we? Professor Newbould has made an excellent attempt at filling in the missing notes from a work of which only 110 bars of fully scored material and the top line thereafter exist. But he has his own personality, and one suspects that neither the aura of the composer's own hand nor an expert's knowledge of his language are enough to subdue it entirely.

I find the orchestration too fussy, on the other hand, accompanimental figures sometimes seem obvious. Nevertheless, there are some lovely passages, such as the tender, beautifully harmonized idea at the beginning of the second movement, and the whole work radiates a Mendelssohn-like freshness, ending with a vibrant, harmonically rich finale.

James Blair, conducting without baton, and the Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra, gave it an excellent performance. The woodwind section's high quality was displayed throughout the work, but what was most heartening about this reading, and the entire concert, was the string playing. The YMSO's violins, in particular, here and in a powerful performance of Weber's challenging *Der Freischütz* overture scarcely put a finger or a bow wrong. And the cellos were often superb.

Stephen Pettitt

London New Music
Purcell Room

Ruth Crawford Seeger was born in 1901 in the United States, came to Europe in the early 1930s to complete her education and to find herself as a composer. Her *String Quartet*, a systematized fantasy quite unlike anything else, was written at this time. Then she returned to America, married, and abandoned composition.

Last night's London New Music concert intercepted her career at two earlier points, bringing us the first British performances of two works on the way towards the remarkable quartet.

First, there was the *Diaphonic Suite No 3* for two clarinets of 1930, written under her future husband's guidance and sounding like little more than a study in his "dissonant counterpoint". Ian Stuart and Roger Heaton found flashes of Crawford Seeger's characteristic energetic wit, but the much more considerable find was her *Violin Sonata* of 1926.

Paul Griffiths

With an arresting opening and an odd hunch-backed scherzo between its two big sonata movements, this is an ambitious work in a confidently handled, barely tonal style. Berg's *Piano Sonata* suggests itself as a comparison. The performance by Ann Hopley and Michael Blake made one regret again that Crawford Seeger never got to her *Wozzeck* or her *Lyric Suite*.

The other major work of the programme, also being heard in Britain for the first time, was Morton Feldman's 20-minute *Bass Clarinet and Percussion* of 1981. This is typically music in which little happens, but in which the undisturbed pianissimo creates an atmosphere of closely attentive enthrallment, so that one hears as a major event the two percussionists' change from softly struck gongs and cymbals to drums and xylophones, or their brief distant bell-sound duo on vibraphone, or the bass clarinetist's switch from one tiny repeating pattern to another.

The beautifully discreet percussionists were Elizabeth Davis and David Hockings.

Paul Griffiths

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Simply being one of the lads

Not many of the nation's horse-mad girls make the progression from ponies to working with their four-legged friends, for which, perhaps, parents should be grateful. Sally Brompton met Susan Gallier, the stable 'lad' whose obsession has inspired a book

In the past 18 months, Susan Gallier has been kicked in the head, had a thumb nail torn out, skinned her knees, broken her pelvis and fractured her spine — all in a normal day's work. For this high-risk and physically gruelling activity she is paid £100 a week. Work starts at six in the morning and finishes at five-thirty each evening, with one and a half days off a fortnight.

Gallier, 28, is a stable lad, one of the unsung couriers of the sport of kings, with the vital day-to-day responsibility for the welfare of the racehorses which may win their owners a fortune and their jockeys worldwide acclaim. Stable lads, whose contribution towards such a win is immeasurable, receive neither.

Gallier cites the case of Reference Point's win at Royal Ascot last year. The sponsors presented the horse's owner with a gold plate encrusted with 72 diamonds, its trainer and his wife with diamond-studded cufflinks and earrings and the jockey with a gold hip flask with a diamond set in the top.

Alison Dean, the stable lad who had nurtured the horse from youngster to champion, trained it, cared for it and loved it to distraction, received nothing. Not even a photograph. "Would the owner really have minded if there had been only 70 diamonds in his plate?" Gallier wonders.

Why anyone should actually choose to do the job, riddled as it is with hardships and indignities, is incomprehensible to the uninitiated; for the stable lads there is only one motive and that is their love of horses. Gallier sums it up in the first few lines of her book, *One of the Lads — Racing on the Inside*, which is published tomorrow. "Funny things, horses. Dirty, dangerous, greedy beasts, they get into your blood like a virus, and once you've got it, there's no cure."

She wrote the book because "I wanted to boost my income without working behind a bar in the evenings". She hopes that it will help to improve the status of stable lads "and just make people aware that we are here, because we never get a mention".

Gallier is very concerned about the current proposals to allow Sunday racing. "We only get every other Sunday off as it is, and we're frightened of losing that. Nobody's asked our opinion. Nobody bothers to ask the stable lads."

Despite the traditional obsession of young girls with horses, female stable lads are still in a minority although their numbers are rising. When Gallier joined the Newmarket stables of top trainer, Clive Brittain, two years ago, only five of the 60 stable lads were girls. Today, she is one of 15 females employed there, mucking out the stables, grooming, exercising and



Susan Gallier, stable lad: "If you're one of those feeble girls, you'll get teased out of a job"

training the horses, ministering to their every need — both physical and psychological.

"It's a hard job for anyone, although the girls get little shows of consideration which the boys don't get, such as not having to clean the drains or unload a wagon-load of hay."

But it is not simply physical strength which is required to survive the rigours of a racing stable. "If you're one of those feeble girls who dissolves into tears when people tease you, you'll

get teased out of a job," Gallier says. She admits that when she first joined a racing stable "the lads frightened me to death. It was a really hostile environment. They have this cruel sense of humour and it takes time to realize they're only joking."

"You don't become one of the lads until you start behaving like one. As a girl you've got to prove your worth before you're accepted. There's a strong pecking order and the kids who come in as apprentices have to fight to survive. If

you can ride you'll get the respect of anyone. If you can't ride but you can tell a good joke, you'll do."

One of four sisters brought up in Grantham, Lincolnshire, and educated at the same school as Margaret Thatcher, Gallier was horse-mad from a young age. When she was 11 years old, her father, a lorry driver, managed to raise the £45 necessary to buy her her own pony, and Gallier picked potatoes and strawberries to pay for his keep on a local farm.

After taking her O levels, at her mother's insistence, she worked at a riding stables in Doncaster — "sheer slave labour" — paying them £10 a week for the privilege.

Having acquired her assistant instructor's certificate, she went to Canada where she stayed for more than five years, working with show jumpers and, in the winter, racehorses. Back in England, she decided to earn some money by getting a job in a racing stable while she decided what to do. "But once I started working in a stable in Newmarket, I knew I couldn't stand anything else."

The attraction is the horses, with whom she has an intense relationship and intimate understanding. "I can't really explain it," she says. "I'm definitely happiest when I'm on a horse. You imagine your horse is terribly intelligent, but it isn't. You can't train a horse like you can train a dog. Racehorses are half wild and that's probably their appeal. They still do things instinctively. I just know that I love them, utterly, obsessively and irresistibly."

Even though she knows that every horse that comes to the stables is there for only a short time, losing them is still an emotional wrench. She is currently preparing herself for the moment when her "all-time favourite", Miss Caro Star, goes to stud, probably at the end of this season. "That's OK," she says bravely, "as long as she's sound and happy when she retires. You can't get daft about it."

She was married briefly to another stable lad, but now she is on her own again. "There's a lot of failed marriages in racing, because you put the horses before anything. But I'm quite secure. I don't need to have a relationship."

"There's a lot of snobbery in racing stables. There's a few upmarket stable girls who might aspire to go out with jockeys, while jockeys go out with tennis

players and models, and trainers marry other trainers' daughters."

She has tried, twice, to do some other kind of job. "You go through stages when you can't stand horses any longer and when you've had enough of the low pay and lack of time off. But I'm not going to try to get away from them any more, because I know I can't."

"Besides, it's a good life for anybody. It's carefree and great fun. The people I work with are the salt of the earth, really nice to be around." On the negative side, she has become "dominant, aggressive and foul-mouthed; and, because you're one of the lads, you stop caring about things like your fingernails and hair." It does not bother her that she has become hard. "I'm proud of it. I was pretty hard to start with."

"What it has done is made me a lot more politically aware of all the social injustices. In a racing stable, the two worlds collide and you become aware of how the other half lives. But I'm not jealous or bitter. I'm convinced I'm getting the better half."

Even so, she knows that she cannot remain a stable lad for ever. "By the time you're 30 you want to stop riding out because you cease to bounce when you're thrown. The problem is that you're not qualified to do anything else." Her own hopes for the future lie in writing, and she is already working on a novel based in Newmarket. "But I can't give up horses altogether because they're my inspiration. I don't know anything about anything else."

She is careful not to talk about her book in the stable yard. "I'm ever so conscious about being called a snob. I still very much want to be one of the stable lads." She grins. "Once a lad, always a lad."

One of the Lads — Racing on the Inside by Susan Gallier will be published tomorrow by Stanley Paul, priced at £9.95

Children in conflict

In countries at war, can any family really hope to raise happy, peaceful children?

The father of one of the Israeli soldiers accused of beating up Palestinian prisoners blamed the army for turning his son into "a beater of women and children". In saying this he touched on a matter which Professor Jennifer Bryce, who has studied the impact of military conflict on the young, considered it vital that we understand. "We know from research that children living surrounded by war may well grow up with a morality based on what they have seen around them as a model," she says.

Bryce, a soft spoken, passionate woman who focused on the lot of children in these situations while working at the University of Beirut for several years, points out that since the Second World War there have been more than 150 military conflicts in the developing world as well as a few in the West. Particularly topical is the study of 333 Israeli and Palestinian children, which showed, during an earlier conflict on Israel's West Bank, that 87 per cent of the children had been involved in at least one confrontation with Israeli security forces, while in 1986 it



Professor Jennifer Bryce and a child caught in the crossfire

was known that Uganda's Resistance Army included about 3,000 children under 16 years and in Zambia 18,000 refugees were children. From Northern Ireland to Nicaragua, children are caught up in armed conflict, their lives distorted by ever present violence and disruption.

"In peaceful countries we can see how valuable a happy, prosperous childhood is, we understand the importance of a family living in peace," she says. "But it is impossible for so many children around the world."

Bryce came to London recently to take part in a Save the Children Fund seminar on children caught in conflict and to present Lynda Chalker,

of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, with a copy of the newly drafted "Convention on the Rights of Children", a document designed to protect children in conflict, which, it is hoped, the British and other governments will sign.

One of the consequences of war is often poverty as economies break down and the breadwinner of the family goes off to fight; the failing of health services and the collapse of education follow.

And it is the break up or breakdown of the family which can be as damaging as anything children experience, according to Bryce. Her book *Cries of the Children in Lebanon*, published by Unicef, looks at the effects of war on children and at the role the

family plays in helping them to cope.

"Research in Britain has shown that children who were separated from their families during the last world war suffered more traumas than children who lived with bombing, death, destruction around them," Bryce says. "The same was true in Lebanon. So what we find, in fact, is what is known in a peace context — that the family is the vital source of support, emotional strength, mental health for children."

"The question is, how can families be supported and helped to give their children the best childhood possible during a war? Here the role of agencies such as Save the Children and Unicef is all-important, because they can provide health care, vaccinations, clean water and education, but also in a small grass roots way, they can work

in communities providing mothers with something as basic as pre-school groups, which mean the mothers get time for themselves — and many of them are very stressed and depressed and need a break if they are to care for their children well. These groups provide community contact and through the children the needs of the family can be seen. And this is where we in the West can help. These agencies rely on donations to do their work."

Although Bryce's work has been based in Lebanon, there are obvious parallels to be made with our own situation in Northern Ireland, where the pressures on families have been recorded and where the implications of children adopting a war morality, choosing to fight because that is "what you do", are as sinister as in the developing countries.

And what, taking the issue from another side, does she think of the way children are "involved" in war through peace demonstrations or being taken to live at camps such as Greenham? Isn't this forcing them to contemplate war or perhaps to live unnecessarily in fear of it? She pauses and thinks for some time before answering. "It is not good if children really are made fearful and to feel powerless, but the other side of this is that at least peace demonstrations teach children that there is some way they can try to work to avoid war, to combat it, that there is a mechanism for trying to achieve peace. I think that is a valuable lesson."

"But before I weep for the 14-year-old Finnish children who, we hear, are anxious about nuclear war, I am concerned with the children who actually live with war and who urgently need our help."

Angela Neustatter
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Details of divorce

The facts of life have turned on its head, to the point where the Children's Society now considers it useful to produce leaflets which aim to explain divorce to children. "In an ideal world," it says, "divorcing parents would sit down with their children to explain just what is happening; but they are often suffering too much themselves to be able to cope with that extra trauma." This has prompted the society to produce two leaflets for divorcing parents and their children (*Divorce and Children*, 20p, and *Divorce and You*, 30p) which try to help both understand and handle what is always a traumatic transition. They are available from the Publications Department, Children's Society, Edward Road, London WC1X 0JL. If you enclose a large SAE, the society admits, however, that "they are no substitute for a real life heart-to-heart, but better than silence."

Good to go
"The idea that the more a product costs, the more women want to slap it on their faces seems totally up the creek to me," says Mark Constantine, founder of Cosmetics To Go, a mail-order company. So Constantine (who formerly worked with Body Shop supreme Anita Roddick) has formulated and packaged a cruelty-free, in-

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

expensive range, which includes sun products, baby-care, a men's selection (including a pyramid which he swears sharpens razors) and make-up, featuring natural ingredients. For a free catalogue telephone 0800 373366.

Quote me...



"Politically, Graham is extremely supportive; he gave up his holidays to act as my agent during the general election. But I would not want him to play Denis Thatcher for me, because I would never play the wife for him. That scenario is dated."

Rosie Barnes

Will to wall

Anyone obsessed with creating ravishing rooms should set aside April 12. On that date a glittering seminar, "Into the Interior: Room for Ideas", will

be staged at Leighton House in London's Holland Park. Speakers include the V & A's Stephen Calloway, and the aim is to introduce the subject of interior design "in a warm and friendly atmosphere"; the organizers will be sweetening the coffers of the Leighton House Endowment Fund with the proceeds from the £100-tickets, which include a champagne lunch from Leith's Good Food. There will be advice on the "fragile relationship between decorator and client" so that nobody is steam-rollered into having décor which isn't really "them". Details are available from Susan Llewellyn Associates, 27c Brompton Gardens, London SW5 0JE (01-584-5847).

Fiddle fads

The latest fashion accessory embraced by New Yorkers would have Stradivari quivering in his grave. Forget the Kelly bag or those dinky little quilted Chanel numbers; violin cases are back on the streets — not, this time, fisted by machine-gun-wielding mafiosi, but instead by Manhattan maidens, who use them to carry all the essentials of daily life to and from the office. Some opt for the soft and squishy PVC style, others for a handsome, white-stitched version, but real handbag snobs wouldn't stoop to anything but the genuine article — sans instrument, of course. "They're great conversation openers," says one case-carrying creature.

Josephine Fairley

Hard days and holidays

FIRST PERSON

Libby Purves

The glowing prose of the holiday supplements conceals a host of niggling worries: or so it would seem from a recent MORI poll. We British, apparently, continue to take our pleasures sadly: 40 per cent of us are afraid we will be burgled in our absence; more than a quarter are worried about "rowdy holiday-makers" and muggings; and one in five is convinced the car will break down.

The pollsters' depressing view of holidays is reinforced by the annual clichés of middle-class conversation: "Oh, it's such hard work getting ready for a holiday, I'd almost rather stay at home"; "Honestly, the children would rather hang around eating hamburgers with their schoolfriends than go to Kalkan", and so on.

So there was a shining simplicity about the account given of itself this week in a special appeal by the Family Holiday Association. The charity, founded by Patrick and Joan Lawrence a few years

ago, exists to give grants to deprived families to enable them to go on holiday together. Some of their clients are single parents, some are recovering from violence within the family; many have a sick or disabled member. All are on rock-bottom incomes, and most live in very poor housing.

This year the FHA will make its 5,000th grant (appeals are always channelled through social workers and health visitors), but the money generally begins to run out around now. It cites with regret one Midlands health visitor who asked for a disabled mother and her daughters of 10 and eight, who look after her, to be given their first sight of the seaside. It would have cost less than £100, but the answer had to be no.

At first, confronted with some of the problems the FHA hears about, the suggestion of

a week's holiday seems almost frivolously irrelevant. If you meet a widowed father with a handicapped teenager and two younger children, living on the 14th floor of a high-rise block in a vandalized estate, perhaps it is more natural to think of rehousing as the immediate and acceptable form of charity. But this is not the experience of the FHA. The Lawrences take the simple, old-fashioned view that "a break does people good". A holiday may be a luxury, but precisely because it is a luxury, it seems to have an astonishing, revitalizing effect.

The holidays are not ambitious: nearly all the families elect to take a break in Britain, at a holiday camp or guest house or in a rented caravan.

And the sums involved are shamefully small — £330 enabled a woman with terminal cancer to have a last happy

break with her unemployed husband and seven-year-old daughter.

One must not be sentimental. A week in Blackpool is not a magical cure for poverty and despair. But with a moment's thought, it becomes obvious that when the rat of deprivation becomes so narrow and deep that it is impossible for the victims to see out of it, that is the point when hope and energy may vanish.

I am haunted by these occasional cases when a desperate mother jumps out of her high window and takes her babies with her; if she had been lifted out of the rut and given memories and photographs to prove that children somewhere were laughing and playing on the sand, she might have had more faith — in their future, if not in her own. It was a simple, rather Victorian idea that the Lawrences began from; but it stands the test of time.

Family Holiday Association, Herford Lodge, East End Road, London N3 3QE (01-349 4044/4047)

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CONSTRUCTION

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

A better year but not yet a renaissance

Cautious optimism best sums up the present state of the construction industry, says Charles Knevitt

The cautious optimism in Britain's construction industry follows a year in which the Government has stated its commitment to a revival of the inner cities, the royal assent for the Channel Tunnel Bill, a hurricane and the stock market crash. The Government has also announced plans for the privatization of the water and electricity industries.

Construction has an annual output of more than £30 billion, representing almost 10 per cent of the gross domestic product, and it employs a workforce of about one and a half million. As such it is often seen as an indicator of the country's overall performance, and a soft target for capital spending cuts.

Eight years of growth have almost silenced the critics of previous stop-go policies and allowed productivity and efficiency to improve. While public-sector investment is at an all-time low it has been more than compensated for by increased activity in the private sector, particularly in new housing for sale and commercial buildings.

The industry's main concerns focus on the likely slowing of growth from 1989; European Community harmonization plans, which take effect in 1992; the imposition of VAT on new construction, especially if it includes house-building; and the apparent lack of resources to be made available for making the Housing Bill's provisions actually work, and unrealistic expectations of it. The Building Employers Confederation reports:

● A major shift in the balance between public and private sector new-build work, with the share of the latter rising from 50 per cent to 70 per cent between 1976 and 1986

● A substantial rise in repair, maintenance and improvement work as a proportion of contractors' output - from 23 per cent in 1976 to 41 per cent in 1986

● The increased use of self-employed labour, from 290,000 to 490,000 between 1977 and 1986

● Changes in the relationship between main contractors and their specialist subcontractors, whose share of output rose from 34 to 44 per cent over the 10-year period

● The introduction of new financing and development arrangements, including buy-back provisions, government grants and public-private partnership schemes such as Phoenix

● Alterations in the demands of clients who have created pressures for different forms of contractual arrangements

● And important developments affecting the demand for trained staff.

It is a measure of the growing professionalism of the industry, once typified by muddy boots and hard hats, that it has been able to respond to the challenges.

Without a huge injection of funds, including the use of grants and tax breaks to lever private sector commitment, scepticism about the Government's stated policy of putting the inner cities at the top of the political agenda is likely to remain. Though individual companies are extremely active in certain parts of the country, there has been no significant increase in resources available to bring about the renaissance sought.

Local authorities, including those controlled by the ex-

trepreneur, have become - perhaps out of necessity - more conciliatory to partnership schemes with the private sector, and the threat of Whitehall-administered urban development corporations (UDCs) has made them concentrate on problems locally.

There is, nevertheless, great annoyance over the way in which the private-sector-sponsored Phoenix Initiative has been used to identify potential UDCs, including two of the three new mini-corporations announced by Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, before Christmas.

Overall the picture is one of new orders coming through and a good year in 1988. Total orders received by contractors in Britain last year were 22 per cent higher than in the previous year, including about £1 billion alone for the Channel Tunnel project.

State-of-trade surveys by architects, the building-material producers, and the larger as well as small contractors all point to continued growth, at least for the next 12 months.

The first edition of the RIBA Construction Workload Brief, published last month, showed that the workload for the architectural profession continued to soar during the third quarter of last year. The annual rise has been an astonishing 41 per cent, with the private commercial sector leading the demand.

Regionally, the Midlands and East Anglia showed a 169 per cent rise, with Greater London at 62 per cent and the North of England 56 per cent. Only Scotland showed a decrease, of 10 per cent over the 12 months.

Though the figures relate to the period before the crash, architects remain optimistic. Thirty-nine per cent thought their workload would increase during the next six months, 50 per cent thought it would remain stable and just 11 per cent thought it would fall. Among the building-material producers, more than three-quarters expect their output to rise during the next year, almost 40 per cent of them by more than 5 per cent. Almost a third want to increase their production capacity. Smaller contractors represented by the Federation of Master Builders report a stable and buoyant year ahead, with almost half expecting to increase their workload.

Two-thirds of the leading builders, represented by the Building Employers Confederation, are operating at either full or almost full capacity. Three-quarters expect their workload to increase, and half report an increase in the number of new inquiries. House-builders, however, are still troubled by land supplies, particularly in the South-East.

Growth is also reported by the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, but not to so marked a degree. The latest White Paper on public spending shows a slight dip in activity for motorways and trunk roads, with an increase in water and sewerage. One problem is that councils are diverting funds from roads, with an under-spend of £148 million, about 20 per cent, last year.

The Government's water privatization plans have been welcomed, although there are reservations about the change-over period, which could delay capital investment.

Its views on the electricity privatization will follow Cecil Parkinson's statement to the Commons last week.

There is no North-South divide in building, although Scotland has been in the doldrums. Yet optimism there is growing. One prime growth area will affect all the regions, as a result of the 1992 European Community harmonization. Britain's beaches are among Europe's worst and will need to be cleaned up to meet new regulations.

The City of London skyline: the building activity constitutes a significant part of British industry among the houses of commerce and finance



This year looks likely to be buoyant for Britain's building contractors, writes Charles Knevitt. Returns from about 600 of the 9,500 member companies of the Building Employers Confederation present a rosy picture of the industry's prospects.

John Parsons, president of the confederation and group chairman of his Bristol-based family business, William Cowlin & Son, reports there are areas where workload could be better and tendering is tight, but overall margins should improve. Even in the problematical

Buoyant time for the survivors

North-East, North-West and Liverpool there is some upturn. And fears that the crash might have affected demand have not so far been borne out. The industry is expecting growth until 1991, with some slowing in 1989.

Of course, there have been recent significant swings from public to private sector, notably in house-building, and from new building to

refurbishment and maintenance. Though commercial work showed a 20 per cent increase in 1987, around 10 per cent is forecast for 1988, with a further 1 per cent next year. But as the Audit Commission reported, there is a growing backlog of work that needs to be tackled in the public sector - about £3 billion on schools alone.

Certainly there are few signs, if

made things worse. The industry has been lobbying the Government on ways to combat the problem since the early 1980s.

The new Housing Bill's implications for the private rented sector and run-down estates owned by local authorities, and the Government's commitment to reviving the inner cities, are being studied.

The two main issues remain the threat that the European Community will impose VAT on construction, and the harmonization plans coming into effect in 1992.

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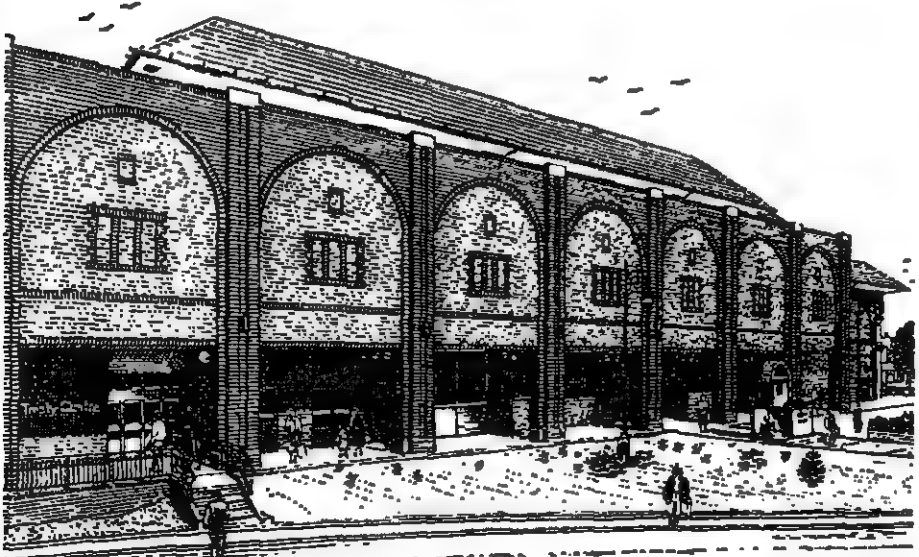
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Construction: exports & imports (£ 000s)

Year	Imports	Exports	Deficit
1982	1,844	1,305	539
1983	2,276	1,355	923
1984	2,827	1,447	1,380
1985	2,711	1,607	1,104
1986	3,025	1,459	1,566
1987*	3,500	1,500	2,000

* Estimate (extrapolation of first three quarters from figures) Source: Department of Environment

Confidence flows from the Chunnel

Despite the occasional discouraging report, a mood of optimism is prevalent

The gloom and despondency that engulfed the civil-engineering industry for a decade and a half of decline has been replaced by a new feeling of confidence and optimism, symbolized by the most exciting project for a generation: the Channel Tunnel.

Contractors report expanding order books as the industry climbs out of recession. In its January workload survey, the Federation of Civil Engineering Consultants found that more than two-thirds of members had more orders than a year earlier, and only one in 10 firms had fewer. The improvement in the number of invitations to tender for new work was even more marked.

Suppliers too are in buoyant mood. According to British

The vast majority expanded in 1987

Aggregate Construction Materials Industries figures released in February, the production of aggregates for construction — which include sand and gravel for concrete, stone for black-top roads, as well as fill and ballast — reached an all-time high of about 260 million tonnes last year — higher even than at any time during the construction boom of the 1960s and early 1970s.

Consulting engineers are also picking up more work. A survey of more than 200 firms by *New Civil Engineer*, to be published in April, shows that the vast majority expanded substantially during 1987 and almost all expect the trend to continue through 1988.

Such buoyancy is, perhaps, surprising, given the level of spending on civil-engineering

works. For example, the Government's forthcoming figures for construction output in the "public non-housing" sector, the public works that form the traditional mainstay of civil-engineering workload, are likely to show that 1987 was the worst year since 1961, with spending in real terms at only slightly more than half its peak level in 1972.

This paradox is explained in part by the effects of privatization. Some traditional public-sector clients, such as British Gas and British Airports, have switched to the private sector.

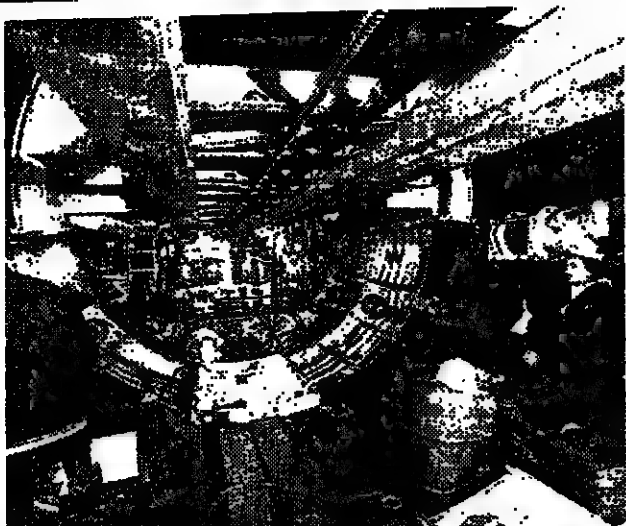
The Government is also insisting that a much higher proportion of the design for public works is put out to private firms.

A few high-profile projects, notably the Channel Tunnel and the new Thames Bridge at Dartford, Kent, have been shifted to the private sector, showing how private finance can be mobilized imaginatively in place of public funds. But, so far, reality has failed to match the rhetoric of ministers.

Despite a host of proposals, ranging from the fanciful double-decking of the M25 to a second Severn Bridge, the Severn and Mersey barrages, private power stations and light-railway systems, the Channel and Dartford bridge examples have not yet been followed.

The paradoxically low-output figures can also be explained in part by the increasingly blurred division between civil engineering and building.

The spectacular growth in the commercial and industrial building market has cushioned most people from the effects of civil engineering's relatively sluggish performance. So the present mood of optimism is misplaced, reflecting nothing more than a spin-off from the building boom. That may explain why both contractors and consulting engineers are still facing tough competition and



Inching towards France: tunnelling gets under way

squeezed profit margins for most of their civil-engineering work, despite the strong demand for construction generally.

This leads to a serious dilemma for civil engineers. On the one hand, growing construction activity has already pushed up prices, particularly in London and the South-East. Too much more work released too rapidly could cause serious problems for the industry, as well as fuelling inflation: to a contractor on an 18-month, fixed-price motorway contract, an unexpected five per cent increase in materials and labour prices can make the difference between profit and loss; ten per cent could cause serious financial embarrassment.

On the other hand, the need for improvement of the nation's infrastructure has never been greater. Repair and renewal of roads, sewers, water and electricity supply have suffered from under-invest-

ment for a generation: now as the economy picks up, they are coming under increasing strain.

For example, motorway traffic has increased by 17 per cent in the past year, yet no new motorways are planned in Britain once the M40 is finished. With local roads, the problem is more severe. Local authorities, exhorted by the Government to spend more on roads, but restrained by budget controls, are likely to under-spend their roads budget for this financial year by about £160 million.

Yet the mood of optimism prevails, with signs in the last few months that the number of tender invitations for public works has picked up. And civil engineers can at least rely on the one sector of their industry which has grown steadily in recent years: defence.

Hugh Ferguson
Editor-in-chief
New Civil Engineer

Huw Jones describes the progress of two impressive civil projects

The battle to be on time

Construction, like any other business, is about making money. The key to success is building the product as quickly as possible to limit labour costs and other overheads. The only difference with very big projects such as the Channel Tunnel and the new Sizewell B nuclear power station is that the stakes are higher.

The high risk and work-load of the £5 billion Channel project is being spread between 10 of the biggest British and French contractors, brought together in the Transmanche Link building consortium. Even so, each member company stands to catch a heavy cold if the tunnel is finished substantially late.

A delay of a year would cost the group about £500 million. Losses would stem from liquidated damages set at £350,000 for each day of delay.

TML's UK director-general, John Reeve, admits that "the construction programme is desperately important".

Eurotunnel, the Channel developer, is keen to get the trains running as soon as possible, bringing the first revenue on the £5 billion it has successfully raised.

Mr Reeve said: "We're pretty pleased with progress so far. The British operation is up with the original programme."

The first of six tunnel boring machines has already advanced 300 metres towards France since it started work in December. Its progress will ac-

celerate over the coming months. The French, however, have already lost three precious months on their programme and their first tunnelling mole is only now preparing to start digging, although it was scheduled to be the first machine away.

Lack of foresight or plain bad luck hit their plans last year when a French company, Somme Delattre, which was building the first mole, went bankrupt. The contract was taken over by its US partner, Robbins. The delay stems, largely, from Robbins' works on the Pacific Coast at Seattle, Washington.

Mr Reeve said that bad ground could delay tunnelling until water-bearing fissures are plugged with grout or, worse, if one of the bores is flooded. The French are less worried about bad ground. They know they have to face it anyway. They were losing the battle against groundwater in their flooded 1975 Chunnel works when the project was abandoned.

This time, the Gallie engineers are playing safe. The tunnel borers are being assembled in a giant water-proof access shaft, ringed in concrete, and the tunnelling shields are equipped with stabilizing fluid, under pressure to keep water out of the bore.

The poor ground near Calais will slow the French, who are only expected to construct about 40 per cent of the 50 km-long tunnels. But they are likely to build even less of the

route, as the Dover tunnellers defend their three-month lead and strive to boost their substantial bonus payments.

The first machines now on site are installing the five-metre diameter central-service bore which will carry the various pipes, ducts and cables. The trains will run in twin parallel tunnels which will be started early next year.

All the tunnels are being started from access points near Dover and Calais. From there, the tunnel moles will strike landward to the terminals, several kilometres inland and seaward towards an eventual mid-Channel rendezvous.

The service tunnel breakthrough is expected late in 1990. The running tunnels will meet up about a year later.

from the base of which it will build Britain's first pressurized water-cooled reactor. The contractor is two or three weeks ahead of the seven-year construction programme, which is designed around work on the difficult reactor building itself.

In the autumn, work will begin on a four metre-thick concrete slab underneath the reactor. Structural work will then have to accommodate installation of the complex heavy engineering plant at the heart of the power station.

Westinghouse, Babcock International, Aiton and a host of other companies have won valuable contracts to supply the parts to collect the raw atomic energy from the reactor core, and produce steam to

New Civil Engineer



Sizewell B power station: excavation proceeds in the shadow of Sizewell A

leaving the contractor two years to fit out the tunnels and test the trains before the planned opening in 1993.

While the British Chunnel contractors, Balfour Beatty, Costain, Tarmac, Taylor Woodrow and Wimpey work to bring the Channel Tunnel on time, their rival, John Laing, is chasing the same goal at Sizewell on the Suffolk coast.

Laing's £130 million contract covers the main structural work for the Sizewell B reactor and the associated power-generation buildings. A separate £60 million contract will be let in April for the construction of the seawater pumping station and offshore water intake and outfall for the plant cooling system.

Preliminary work began last year and already Laing has excavated a 20-metre-deep pit, covering several hectares,

drive the station's twin 600-megawatt turbines.

Laing will erect a giant vacuum-proof shell around the reactor and the associated plant. A 60m-high domed concrete casement, tensioned by perimeter cables and lined with an air-tight steel membrane, will enclose the reactor area.

Sizewell is the first of about 10 ten nuclear or coal-powered generating stations which the Central Electricity Generating Board plans to order over the next seven years or so to replace its ageing Magnox reactors, and to boost supply. The new orders promise a healthy future workload for the construction industry, which has noted with interest Mrs Thatcher's recently-expressed interest in a second Channel tunnel.

The author is a reporter for *New Civil Engineer*

Whatever happened to the navy?

In London skilled labour is rarer than a scaffold-free street. For at least 12 months contractors in London have been crying out for carpenters and bricklayers, and if they find them paying 25 per cent more this year than last.

The problem is self-inflicted. Trade-union reactions to the boom from the training board and even slower acceptance of self-employment by the unions have choked what should have been an increasing flow of youngsters into the industry.

Now London's problems have become those of Birmingham and Manchester. Since Christmas they have spread to Scotland. In the Midlands, a Building Employers Confederation survey, covering the last quarter of 1987, shows 82 per

cent of firms reporting shortages of bricklayers and 88 per cent unable to recruit enough carpenters.

These are symptoms of an illness aggravated by the seven per cent jump in output last year. There are two root causes: first more than half the one million building workers are now self-employed. They have no incentive or need to take on apprentices. The Construction Industry Training Board has done little to persuade them.

This is connected to the second cause, which is that the two building trades unions, the T & GWU and Uclat, regard self-employment with only slowly waning hostility. Both are represented on the CITB.

A cure may be on the way. The BEC, which represents the 10,000 larger firms, has pledged in its first five-year plan, published two weeks ago, that it wants to "significantly expand" training. The BEC will press for a change in the way craft status is conferred. Out will go the moribund apprentice-master system. In will come skills testing for all.

That is in the future. For now a series of grass-roots initiatives is growing. In London's Docklands the BEC, along with CITB, is involved in a coordination exercise to quantify the numbers, then find space to train workers.

Peter Bill
Deputy editor, *Building Magazine*

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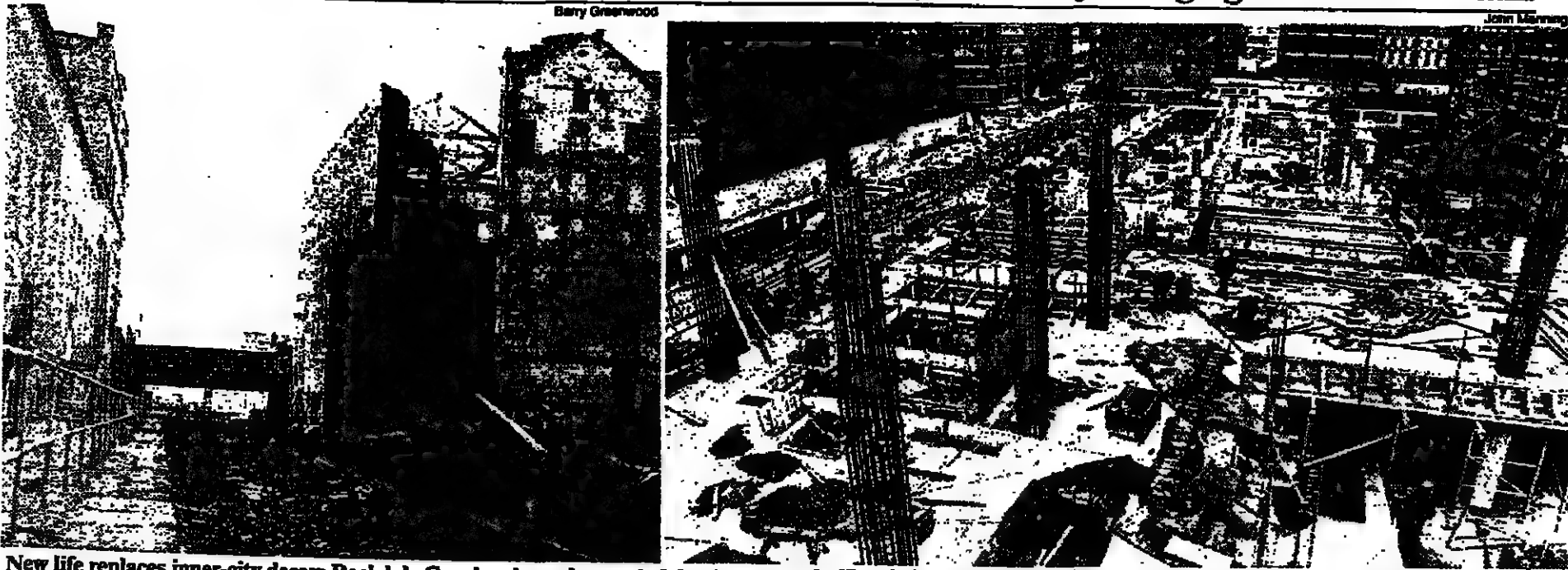
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صناعات البناء

FOCUS

CONSTRUCTION/3

Two new approaches to development, both in the cities, are slowly changing the face of Britain



New life replaces inner-city decay: Rochdale Canal and warehouses in Manchester, and offices being raised for the Broadgate development on a London rail terminus site

Phoenix rises from decay

American ideas are being used to solve some of this country's urban problems, says Charles Kneivitt

Leaders of the Phoenix Initiative, the private sector-sponsored agency that acts as an "honest broker" between central and local government and the construction and development industry, met Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary today to discuss its future, writes Charles Kneivitt.

The outcome could well include public funding so that it can continue with its trail-blazing urban regeneration schemes in parts of the country not reaping the benefits of the mini-boom in capital projects.

Launched in July 1986, after publication of the Phoenix report by Harry Cowie, the agency adopted many of the lessons of the inner-city revival in America and began to implement them in Britain. A few months later it was in business, with Christopher Ledger, seconded from Shell, at the helm, and Ian Smith seconded from the Department of the Environment.

Both are due to return to their respective posts at the end of this year, so the meeting is timely. No doubt Phoenix's relationship with the Government over the way mini-Urban Development Corporations have seemed to follow its lead will also be on the agenda.

In December, Mr Ridley announced three new mini-UDCs, in central Manchester, Bristol and Leeds. In the first two, Phoenix entered into discussions with the local authorities over setting up pub-

lic-private partnerships. Sheffield could be next - another city where the agency has been involved. Government intervention where the agency has first staked a claim could be seen as acknowledgement of the latter's success.

Manchester Phoenix, the first initiative announced just over a year ago, with the local office of Arthur Young as the executive team, concentrated on the Whitworth Street area. A development package was put together with about a dozen partners, and the full

Semi-derelict blocks being refurbished

backing of the left-wing City Council. Now Phoenix is looking at two further areas of central Manchester.

Applications for centrally administered urban development grants, worth about £17½ million, have met with varying degrees of success, with two being approved and two turned down.

In neighbouring Salford, where the local authority is the main landowner of the earmarked sites, Phoenix is concentrating on an estate of semi-derelict tower blocks which will be refurbished for student accommodation. Two or three other housing projects may follow. There is already a UDC at nearby Trafford Park.

Bristol, where a mini-UDC, based around Templemeads,

Station was announced, is the subject of a broader strategy, embracing the accelerated redevelopment of Broadmeads shopping centre; the promotion of the city as a regional media centre, and a blurring of the boundaries between the UDC-designated area and bordering districts also in need of attention.

In each case, as in the Wirral, where wealthy areas border the deprivation of Birkenhead and New Brighton, Phoenix tailors its response to specific needs.

Discussions with Sheffield have come after a government-sponsored report, by Coopers & Lybrand, which recommended a partnership approach to regeneration, although a UDC was not mentioned. Here it would be necessary to obtain public funding to lever a private-sector commitment.

Apart from acting as a development catalyst, perhaps Phoenix's most important task is to persuade the Government to go further down the American route to regeneration, in the form of tax-breaks. Phoenix is working with the Construction Industry Joint Taxation Committee on new proposals that could revolutionize private-sector involvement in the inner-cities programme.

Developers, land-owners and the financial institutions will need to be mobilized to present a united and effective lobby if treasury mandarins are to be defeated.

Broadgate shows the way forward

It's not what you do - it's the way that you do it. That is the signature tune of those who have improved the speed and quality of building during the last 10 years, writes Peter Bill.

Today a client will get his office or factory built at much the same speed as it would be done in the US. Ten years ago it might have taken half as long again. Today, speed does not mean an automatic sacrifice of quality.

As the old song suggests, it is not that construction technology has advanced rapidly in the decade. In fact, still bruised by yesterday's disasters, the application of new inventions or methods advances only slowly. Rather it is the way buildings are put together that has brought the advances in speed and quality. Last year a transatlantic study by Reading University concluded that construction times in America were now not much better than in the UK.

What's happened is that enlightened clients are commissioning imaginative architects and hiring bright builders. They all come together before sketch designs are turned into workable details and think very hard about how the building will be put together.

This process has produced the science of "value engineering", and the art of "buildability". A loose description of the former is that before a product or process is chosen, the designer has to consider not only about the direct cost

but also what effect that choice will have upon the other elements both in terms of speed and economics.

Bolting a cheap curtain wall to a flimsy misaligned frame with too-small tolerances can be an expensive business.

Then "buildability" is introduced. "It looks fine on the drawing board, but how fast will it go together, and how?" These are the questions now asked before rather than after building has started.

At least on major contracts. On smaller jobs the idea of the builder being presented with a set of sketchy drawings by the architect and told to get on with it is still frequent. The ensuing problems still makes construction one of the largest areas of litigation.

That is why more and more clients are bringing in the contractor earlier - in a variety of guises. Management contracting, design and build, project management and now construction management. These are the mechanisms that ensure a mind able to translate conceptions into workable constructions.

For students of building, the exemplar of this approach is Broadgate, the £200 million office development adjacent to Liverpool Street station in the City of London. Here the client, Roschagh Stanhope, has employed imaginative architects, Arup Associates, plus the builders Bovis, to create Europe's fastest-growing site.

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BUILDING EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION



"Overall, 1988 should be another good year for building industry trading prospects. Among many issues, BEC will be campaigning for policies to boost 'inner city' regeneration, to tackle the scourge of 'cow-boy' builders and to outlaw non-commercial contract conditions."

John Parsons President of the Building Employers Confederation

The Building Employers Confederation is the most influential and effective trade organisation representing the widest range of building industry interests. Its members account for over three-quarters of total private building industry output.

Details from Alan Hughes, BEC, 82 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8AD. Telephone 01-580-5588; Fax 01-631-3872.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax AM. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins.
- 6.40 Ray Whitney in Musical Bandits (b/w). 6.55 Weather.
- 7.00 Breakfast Time with Jeremy Paxman and Kirsty Wark. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25. 8.55 Regional news and weather.
- 8.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Patti LaBelle receives viewers' comments on yesterday's television output 9.20 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on mercy killing.
- 10.00 News and weather followed by Going for Gold (r). 10.25 Ceefax. BBC2. Andy Crane with programme news and birthday greetings followed by Play School and The Wombles (r).
- 10.35 Five to Eleven. Elly Wylie with a reading 11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Daytime Live includes a report from the Costa del Sol by Sophie Grigson on Britain's eating habits abroad. 12.05 Regional news and weather.
- 1.00 One O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. Weather 1.30 Neighbours. Maggie does some serious thinking about her wayward son 1.50 Going for Gold.
- 2.15 Her Life as a Man (1984) starring Robert Culp. Robyn Hackette Carly Perkins is refused a job on the sports desk of a newspaper because she is a woman. She returns the next day disguised as a man and lands the job. Trouble ensues when she is sent to interview a man-sporting sportsman. Directed by Robert Ellis Miller. (Ceefax)
- 3.50 Paddy's House (r). 4.00 Animal Fair. The first of a new series
- 4.10 Laurel and Hardy (r). 4.15 Jackanory. Nigel Havens with Bieme Reuter's story The Princess and the Sun, Moon and Stars (r). 4.25 Yogi Bear (r). 4.30 Gravy. Episode two of the soap story about an entrepreneurial young man.
- 5.00 Newsround 5.05 Moonchild. Episode four of the six-part serial and Sarah's terrible secret is revealed. (Ceefax) 5.30 Neighbours (r).
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Nicholas Witchell and Philip Hayton. Weather. 6.25 London Plus.
- 7.00 Wogan - with Sue Lawley. On tonight's guest list are Eddie Edwards, Douglas Hurd and Clare Francis.
- 7.25 The Clothes Show includes Kathy Staff, Dulcie Gray and Anna Wing looking at fashions for the mature woman (r).
- 8.00 Daffies. Bobby makes a confession to his lawyer that might jeopardize his case for the custody of little Christopher. (Ceefax)
- 8.30 Points of View.
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis and Philip Hayton. Regional news and weather. 9.30 O.C. Dr. Suzi's Story. A documentary about the last months of AIDS sufferer Suzi Lovegrove. She contracted the virus after an affair with a man before she married in 1985 and she passed on to her 19-month-old son who has to have three-weekly blood transfusions to recharge his damaged immune system. (Ceefax)
- 10.20 Film: Banguero (1970) starring Lee Van Cleef. Western adventure about a gang who kidnap a baroque and his vessel used as ferry in a small town near the Mexico border and lay in wait for the arrival of a gunman and his gang. Directed by Gordon Douglas.
- 12.05am Weather.

BBC2

- 6.55 Open University: Contemporary Issues in Education. Ends at 7.20.
- 9.00 Ceefax.
- 9.45 Daytime on Two: France and the French 10.00 For four- and five-year olds 10.15 Science: clearing 10.25 The Tree by Carmichael, a native of Italy, shows viewers around his island 11.00 The story of Auntie Moll 11.15 Tutorial topics: parts one and two of Two's Company 11.40 The science of cooking 12.05 The first of four films for home economics students 12.25 The second of five films on women and society 12.50 The second programme in a series of six about living in the computer age 1.20 For the young 1.35 Using a compass 2.00 News and weather followed by a story for children.
- 2.15 Antiques Roadshow from Middlesbrough (r). (Ceefax)
- 3.00 News and weather followed by Chronicle: Revelations of a Mummy. A documentary following two scholars as they unravel the first Egyptian mummy to be scientifically investigated in this country. Narrated by Eric Thompson (r).
- 3.50 News, regional news and weather.
- 4.00 Catchword. Word game presented by Paul Cole.
- 4.30 The Village Garden. The fourth of 13 films following the restoration of a walled garden presented by Peter Thoday and Harry Dodson (r). (Ceefax)
- 5.00 Favourite Things: The Prime Minister talks to Russell Harty about the things that give him the most pleasure (r).
- 5.30 Film 50 (r).
- 6.00 Film 1 Could Go On Singing (1933) starring Dick Dory and Judy Garland. Musical drama about an American singing star in London for a Palladium concert who becomes involved with her teenage son who does not know that the celebrated lady is his mother. Ronald Neame directed Miss Garland in her last film role.
- 7.40 The Rock 'n' Roll Years. 1962 - the year John Glenn orbited the earth, Marilyn Monroe died and Kennedy confronted
- Kruschev over the Cuban missiles. Musical memories are provided by, among others, the Beatles, Cliff Williams, Gene Pitney and Petula Clark (r).
- 8.10 Timewatch: The Man in the Iron Mask. (see Choice)
- 9.00 M*A*S*H. Hawkeye's heart misses a beat when he recognizes a new nurse as an old flame the trouble is she is now married (r).
- 9.25 A Very Peculiar Practice. Episode two of the seven-part black comedy and Jack's return in Stephen's new flat looks to be permanent. Meanwhile, Stephen's colleagues are up in arms over his decision to bring in a psychiatrist to check them over. (Ceefax)
- 10.30 Up North Gangsters. This second of six documentaries about life in the North of England focuses on Liverpool's controversial gangster system in which the country's prosperous farmers hire cheap, unofficial, unskilled labour from as far away as Sheffield to crop their vegetables and flowers. For the men and women who control the gangs it is highly profitable - for the workers it is a different story.
- 10.30 Newsnight 11.30 Worldview.
- 11.40 Open University: Introduction to Psychology 12.05am Matter in the Universe. Ends at 12.34.



Judy Garland: on BBC2, 6.00pm

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am begins with a cartoon followed at 6.30 by 10.10 for half-an-hour by Good Morning Britain. After Nine minutes a counsellor talking about overeating as an addiction.
- 8.25 Thames news.
- 8.30 Give Us a Clue. Celebrity mime game presented by Michael Parkinson. This morning Lionel Blair and Liza Goddard are joined by Ray Alan, Susan Hanson, Tom O'Connor, Richard O'Sullivan, Mary Parkinson and Joanne Whalley 18.00 Santa Barbara 10.25 News.
- 10.30 The Time... The Place... Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical subject 11.10 Allstar 11.25 Thames news headlines.
- 11.30 Women Writers. In this penultimate programme of the series Sue Townsend, creator of Adrian Mole, looks at her life and career 12.00 Wish You Were Here... 2 Reports from Russia, Whitty and the Ardeche (r). Followed by Crimestoppers.
- 12.30 News with Julie Somerville.
- 12.50 Thames news.
- 12.55 European Soccer Special. Live coverage of the European Cup quarter-final first leg game between St. Etienne and Glasgow Rangers. The commentator in Rumania is Martin Tyler.
- 3.00 Games. Rag trade drama serial 3.25 Thames news headlines 3.30 Sons and Daughters. Australian family drama serial.
- 4.00 Red, Jane and Freddy with a musical comedy. (see Choice)
- 4.20 The Wind in the Willows. Animated adventures of Mr Toad and his chums 4.45 C.A. starring Louisa Mason.
- 5.13 Connections. Quiz game.
- 5.45 News with Alastair Stewart.
- 6.00 Thames news.
- 6.25 Help with details of the HOST organisation. Helping for Overseas Students.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.30 Schools.
- 12.00 Business Daily. Financial and business news services presented by Susanah Simons.
- 12.30 Just 4 Fun: Hand in Hand. A programme for both deaf and hearing children.
- 1.00 Reaching Agreement. The third of five programmes dealing with communication skills in the workplace (r). (Oracle)
- 1.30 Working Wonders. Programme eight of the series on writing at work, introduced by Richard Briers. (Oracle)
- 2.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Glyn Worsnip. Reporters Nicky Woolley and Jackie Ashley review yesterday's debates and look forward to those scheduled for today.
- 2.30 Snooker. Round five action in the MIM Britannia British Open introduced by Tony Francis. The commenting team at the Assembly Rooms, Derby, are John Pulman, Rex Williams, Ray Edmonds, Mark Williams and Jim Meadowcroft.
- 4.30 Fifteen to One. Fast moving general knowledge quiz game presented by William G. Stewart.
- 5.00 The Amateur Naturalist. In part seven of Gerald and Les Durrell's series for would-be naturalists they journey to Canada's northern boreal forests in midwinter to see how the wilds cope with the harsh and icy weather conditions (r). (Oracle)
- 5.30 I Dream of Jeannie. Vintage American comedy series starring Barbara Eden and Larry Hagman.
- 6.00 Family Ties. Domestic comedy series starring Meredith Baxter Birney and Michael J. Fox.
- 6.30 An Outside Chance. Part four of Robert Nae's seven-part programme series on non-traditional alternatives available to the courts focusing on the Wings Project in Nottingham which furnishes a range of infestables to different community groups and special schools and is run by offshoots who are working out their community service.
- 7.00 Channel 4 News with Peter Sissons and Sue Carpenter.
- 7.30 Party Political Comment from a Labour politician. Followed by 8.00 A Love Affair with Nature. The first of a six-part series in which Edwin Mullins explores the great British love affair with nature. Tonight he examines the distinctive features of five landscape painters - Gainsborough, Constable, Wilson, Turner and Palmer (r). (Oracle)
- 8.30 News in Politics. A report on Europe's new defence ministers including an interview with the defence minister, George Younger, on Britain's response to the new defence ministers. Presented by Nick Ross.
- 9.00 Girls on Top. Domestic comedy series about four disparate young women who share an apartment in a house belonging to an eccentric, titled novelist (r). (Oracle)
- 9.30 Women in View. Beatrice Campbell is in the United States to find out about the influential role of women in a series of "Concerned Women for America".
- 10.00 The Management. The sixth and final episode of the comedy series starring Hattie and Patsy as the owners of a nightclub. Tonight Fiona announces her engagement to Jonty and he persuades her to leave with a society wedding.
- 10.30 Tickets for the Titanic. Incident on the Lines. This second in the series of black comedies stars Warren Mitchell as George, a respectable middle-aged man who finds his well-organized world falling apart. He contemplates suicide but then he meets the outrageous Zina (Alexandra Karygin).
- 11.30 The Late Shift beginning with Johnny Stecasco (b/w) starring John Casavetes as a New York private detective on the trail of a man who steals young women's faces.
- 12.00 The Best of Spike Jones (b/w). The mad-cap musician with old favourites including Cocktails for Two (r).
- 1.05am Redoubt Jubilee. Comedy and pop music (r). Ends at 2.00.

VARIATIONS

- BBC1 WALSLEY 6.55-7.00 News Today 6.55-7.00 News followed by Neighbours 7.30-8.00 News. The first of a new series of the quiz game chaired by Derek Jamson. Nigel Dempster and Philippe Kennedy are joined by Barbara Dickson, Terry Marsh, Carol Barnes and Ken Dodd.
- 7.30 Coronation Street. Bet and Alec have to cope with the devastating news. (Oracle)
- 8.00 Singles. Comedy about two men and two women who meet at a singles club. (Oracle)
- 8.30 Newer Than Donald. Sinden and Windsor Davies star in this comedy series about two rival antique dealers. (Oracle)
- 9.00 The Fear. Episode three of the five-part drama serial about the North London gangster fraternity. (Oracle)
- 10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Sandy Gell includes a report from Michael Nicholson on a Cypriot Bay with a Vietnamese "boatperson" and his son who has been collected from Vietnam 10.30 Thames news.
- 10.35 Midweek Sport Special. European Cup football action and the last fifth round matches in the MIM Britannia British Snooker Open.
- 12.30 The Jax. An artistic failure discovers an artwork that changes his life. A dead boy had a happy birthday. 1.30 America's Top Ten presented by Casey Kasem.
- 2.00 News followed by Film: Craze (1973) starring Jack Palance and Diana Dors. An enthralling thriller in the occult with deadly results. Directed by Freddie Francis.
- 4.00 News headlines followed by WKRP in Cincinnati. Comedy series.
- 4.30 Fifty Years On. Vintage news clips.
- 5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends at 5.00.
- TSW As London except 12.00-12.30pm News 12.30-12.35pm News 12.35-12.40pm News 12.40-12.45pm News 12.45-12.50pm News 12.50-12.55pm News 12.55-12.58pm News 12.58-12.59pm News 12.59-1.00pm News 1.00-1.05pm News 1.05-1.10pm News 1.10-1.15pm News 1.15-1.20pm News 1.20-1.25pm News 1.25-1.30pm News 1.30-1.35pm News 1.35-1.40pm News 1.40-1.45pm News 1.45-1.50pm News 1.50-1.55pm News 1.55-2.00pm News 2.00-2.05pm News 2.05-2.10pm News 2.10-2.15pm News 2.15-2.20pm News 2.20-2.25pm News 2.25-2.30pm News 2.30-2.35pm News 2.35-2.40pm News 2.40-2.45pm News 2.45-2.50pm News 2.50-2.55pm News 2.55-3.00pm News 3.00-3.05pm News 3.05-3.10pm News 3.10-3.15pm News 3.15-3.20pm News 3.20-3.25pm News 3.25-3.30pm News 3.30-3.35pm News 3.35-3.40pm News 3.40-3.45pm News 3.45-3.50pm News 3.50-3.55pm News 3.55-4.00pm News 4.00-4.05pm News 4.05-4.10pm News 4.10-4.15pm News 4.15-4.20pm News 4.20-4.25pm News 4.25-4.30pm News 4.30-4.35pm News 4.35-4.40pm News 4.40-4.45pm News 4.45-4.50pm News 4.50-4.55pm News 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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1439.1 (+9.6)

FT-SE 100
1781.9 (+13.1)

Bargains
26092 (23914)

USM (Datastream)
145.99 (+0.42)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7770 (+0.0045)

W German mark
2.9960 (+0.0022)

Trade-weighted
74.8 (+0.1)

Nomura
wins gilts
go-ahead

Nomura International has become the first Japanese firm to be accepted by the Bank of England as a primary dealer in gilt-edged securities.

The firm, one of the four major Japanese securities houses, announced yesterday that it had received notification that it will be added to the existing list of 23 market-makers. It will not start market-making immediately, but will continue to build up its staff and necessary equipment.

The market-making operation is expected to start in late spring or early summer.

Daiwa Europe, which applied to join the list with Nomura last autumn, is continuing its discussions with the Bank.

Fisons again

Fisons, the pharmaceutical, scientific equipment and horticulture group, has reported its seventh successive year of growth. Pretax profits in the year to end-December 1987 were up from £85.1 million to £109.1 million. Earnings per share rose 26 per cent to 17.4p. The full year dividend will be 4p, 23 per cent higher than in 1986.

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Mirabelle bid

The Bryant Walker Leisure Group, headed by Mr George Walker, is planning to buy the Mirabelle restaurant in Curzon Street, Mayfair, London from Scots Restaurant group for £3 million. It wants to turn it into a restaurant and casino.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2069.79 (-1.83)
Nikkei Average	26435.90 (+193.09)
Hang Seng	2454.71 (+36.69)
Amsterdam Gen	235.6 (+3.0)
Sydney AO	1273.2 (+22.2)
Commerzbank	1404.4 (+8.1)
Brussels	4851.6 (+11.4)
Paris CAC	308.9 (+0.4)
Zurich S&K Gen	469.5 (+8.1)
London:	
FT-A All-Share	914.24 (+8.18)
FT-3000	1804.36 (+5.77)
FT Gold Mines	238.6 (+4.6)
FT Fixed Interest	95.55 (+0.12)
FT Govt Secs	90.47 (+0.21)

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Closing prices Page 28

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:	285p (+10p)
Lloyds	970p (+10p)
Body Shop	155p (+4p)
Arden	142p (+8p)
Press	355p (+15p)
Volax	150p (+7p)
Century	717p (+13p)
Carton Corin	395p (+17p)
J Smurfit	464p (+13p)
Wellcome	167p (+7p)
TNT	387p (+15p)
Asplund	617p (+15p)
Rover	885p (+20p)
Parker Knott 'A'	885p (+20p)

FILLER:	247p (-7p)
Fisons	670p (-10p)
Eucalyptus Pulp	325p (-25p)
British Aerospace	325p (-25p)
Closing prices	

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base:	9%
3-month interbank 9% 9%*	
3-month eligible bills 8 1/2%*	
buying rate:	
US Prime Rate 8 1/2%*	
Federal Funds 6 1/2%*	
3-month Treasury Bills 5.61-5.59%*	
30-year bonds 10 1/2%*-10 3/4%*	

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.7770	£: DM1.6858*
£: Sfr2.4736	£: Sfr1.3920*
£: FF10.1413	£: FF5.7080*
£: Yen228.00	£: Yen128.28*
£: Indus74.8	£: Indus74.8*
ECU £0.69936	SOR £0.76932

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$429.15 pm \$429.30	
close \$429.75-430.25 (\$242.00-242.50)	
Market:	
Comex \$429.30-429.80*	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Apr) pm \$14.70/bbl (\$18.30)	
* Domestic latest trading prices	
The Roundup 24 Trend Oil 26	
Energy Market 24 Energy Market 26	
Stock Market 24 Foreign Exch 26	
Wall Street 24 Unit Trusts 26	
Appointments 24 Commodities 26	
Calendar 26 US & World 28	
City Diary 26 Share Prices 29	

Value of BAe
plunges £60m

Dealers 'amazed'
by bid for Rover

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

The stock market value of British Aerospace plunged by £60 million yesterday as dealers and big shareholders greeted news of its plans to buy Rover with amazement and deep scepticism.

After BAe shares were temporarily suspended at 354p, as were Rover shares, analysts and market-makers had thought that BAe might be buying only Land-Rover. When the more ambitious plan emerged, the shares swiftly fell 25p, to 329p, before recovering slightly to 331p.

Stockbrokers following BAe said the move was "unbelievable," "bizarre," "confusing" and "very bad news for the company."

Big institutional shareholders took a more relaxed but equally sceptical view. "This is not a strategy I can make sense of," said one, "but British Aerospace management are not stupid people, so I would not condemn it out of hand."

BAe called stock market analysts in for a meeting last night to explain its intentions. It is already clear that big shareholders will require convincing explanations from Professor Roland Smith, the chairman of BAe, and Sir Raymond Lygo, the chief executive, before agreeing to a

purchase of Rover. One senior investment manager said he expected shareholders would be consulted before any deal was agreed, and not presented with a fait accompli.

BAe shares have been weak for most of the past year because of fears of big losses in its civil aircraft division due to the sharp fall in the dollar, in which most aircraft are priced. The company is expected to

write off expected losses on orders already taken, possibly recording a loss in its 1987 results, due to be announced this month.

A forecast this week from Mr Piers Whitehead, of Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, suggested that BAe could show a loss of more than £160 million, compared with a 1986 profit of £182 million. But the company is expected to make profits of more than £200 million this year, with earnings on military aircraft, missiles and armaments offsetting civil aircraft losses.

Rover is expected to reveal next week that it made a profit in 1987 for the first time for many years.

BAe is known to be anxious

to spend some of the £1 billion cash it has accumulated and has recently made a series of acquisitions, including the former Royal Ordnance armaments factories, and service companies in continental Europe. It is anxious to diversify away from the currency risk of aircraft projects that take seven or more years to mature, and to buy businesses with a steadier short-term cashflow.

Mr Whitehead said yesterday that he saw the logic in BAe buying Land-Rover for its military sales but that, even if it made short-term profits, Austin-Rover suffered from the same problems as BAe's civil aircraft division, which did not operate on the same scale as big aircraft manufacturers in a highly competitive international market. Mr Martin Smith, of Wood Mackenzie, said that BAe had enough problems on its own.

The Rover group also announced that it has sold Beans Engineering, one of its small subsidiaries, to its management for around £3 million. The company, which employs 300 people in Tipton, West Midlands, makes flywheels, brake drums and gearbox plants.

British Gas forced to
drop Petrocorp deal

By David Young, Energy Correspondent, and Richard Long in Wellington

Plans by British Gas to take control of Petrocorp, the New Zealand state-owned oil and gas company, have been abandoned after a decision by the Wellington government to sell the company to a local consortium which has matched the British Gas offer.

But the New Zealand government has become embroiled in a political and economic storm after it announced that it was abandoning the NZ\$800 million (£300.75 million) sale.

Mr Richard Prebble, the State-Owned Enterprises Minister, making the surprise announcement, said the sale had collapsed because of the conditions imposed by British Gas.

"Officials of British Gas presented the Crown's negotiating team with 30 pages of legal provisions which the government considered to be unacceptable," he said.

But Mr Jim Bolger, the oppo-

sition leader, said the government had abandoned the sale because of threats from its own backbenchers that they would cross the floor of parliament to vote against the move.

British Gas acted magnanimously last night by wishing Petrocorp well, but it is understood that had a company been involved and not a national government, writs for damages alleging breach of contract and demands for substantial compensation would have been issued.

The New Zealand Government told British Gas that it was pulling out of the sale shortly before the 30-page contract was about to be signed.

The new buyer is a local consortium, Fletcher Challenge, one of the three groups which initially could not meet the government's conditions.

However, the new offer is believed to have been backed

by New Zealand businessmen who are also supporters of the government.

British Gas said yesterday: "British Gas has negotiated in good faith with the New Zealand Government in order to finalize an agreement for the purchase of the Petrocorp shares. The draft contract contained the usual provisions reflecting the size of the transaction. These provisions were known to the New Zealand Government at the time of the signing of the preliminary agreement."

"The preliminary agreement provided that neither the New Zealand Government nor British Gas would make any public announcement without the other's consent and that the government would not negotiate with other parties until March 31 1988, or until British Gas had withdrawn from the transaction."

Quadrex may sue bankers

By Our City Staff

The banks withdrew their lines of credit on Sunday evening, as a result of which legal action against the two banking groups which failed to advance the money needed for Quadrex to complete the £280 million acquisition of the wholesale broking division of Mercantile House.

"We are considering action against others," Mr Klesch said. He would not identify the parties against which he is considering action, but they are assumed to be Midland Montagu and Citibank, the two banks which had agreed to finance the deal.

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Mr Klesch said yesterday that B&C had moved unilaterally to impose an end date on the contract, where none existed in the written contract. He complained that he had been given no opportunity to replace the finance denied him from Montagu and Citibank with funds from other sources.

"There is lots of finance out there" he said.

It is understood that the management of MW Marshall, the London money-broker which, with William Street Brokers, made up the division being sold by B&C, had not welcomed the deal with Mr Klesch, preferring to mount a management buy-out.

Quadrex was still interested in buying the businesses, but B&C insists that there would have to be a fresh contract with the purchase price paid into escrow pending completion.

Sophie Mirman wins USM award

By Michael Clark

It has been an eventful few days for Miss Sophie Mirman, aged 30, the multi-millionaire founder and head of Sock Shop, the specialist retailer, who started her working career in the typing pool at Marks and Spencer.

Last night, the champagne corks were popping in the Mirman household - just days after the birth of her second child, William - as she was voted USM Entrepreneur of the Year at the USM Awards Dinner by a panel of judges who included Mrs Debbie Moore, the former Businesswoman of the Year, and Mr Tony Berry, chairman of Blue Arrow.

Miss Mirman, with her husband Richard Ross, brought Sock Shop to the USM last May on a wave of publicity that grabbed the imagination of an investing public still counting its profits from similar investments in companies such as Mrs Anita Roddick's Body Shop. The shares offered by Capel-Cure Myers, the broker, at 125p, were oversubscribed no fewer than 54 times and started life at 205p, valuing the company at £60 million.

Before the market crash Miss



Jubilant: Sophie Mirman and William

Mirman's stake in the company was worth more than £50 million - a far cry from her humble beginnings less than five years ago when she opened her first Sock Shop in the Knightsbridge underground station with the help of a £45,000 loan from the Government Loan Guarantee scheme.

Now Sock Shop and Sophie Mirman are household names. There are 61 shops in Britain and three in New York, with sales of more than £14 million.

Blenheim Exhibitions, the exhibitions

organiser, was voted USM Company of the Year at the dinner sponsored by Deloitte Haskins & Sells and the USM Magazine. Blenheim joined the USM in October 1986, at 95p. The shares closed last night at 495p.

Mr Berry said: "The panel thinks Blenheim is a superb example of what the USM is all about, entrepreneurial, fast growing and sexy. They have single-handedly put the exhibition and conference market firmly in the eyes of the City and are a tribute to the USM."

Runners-up for the award were DC Cook, Debro, Jacques Vert, Miller & Santhouse, Savage Group and Sock Shop. The best-performing USM share was Accis Jewellery, which soared 755 per cent last year, and the best performing new issue was Missy's, the computer software specialist. Pacer Systems was named overseas company of the year and the runners-up were Mrs Fields and Tribble Harris.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd was voted by the USM chairman as their favourite merchant bank and Capel-Cure Myers, which brought nine companies to market last year, the USM's best sponsor.

STC takes the lid off a £1bn warchest



Healthy profits picture: Arthur Walsh, chief executive (left) and Lord Keith yesterday (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater)

STC, Britain's second largest electronics group, has a £1 billion warchest, but has yet to identify a target. Unveiling a 40 per cent rise in 1987 pretax profits to £188 million, Lord Keith, the chairman, yesterday disclosed that the group could call on credit lines totalling £850 million to support the £196 million of cash in the balance sheet.

Although Plessey appears virtually bid-proof after the joint venture deal with GEC, STC indicated that it was looking for potential ac-

quisitions, although Lord Keith insisted that the money was "not burning a hole" in the company's pocket.

STC has made a phenomenal recovery from its low point in 1985, when it ran up losses of £11.4 million. Turnover has topped £2 billion for the first time, at £2.06 billion against £1.93 billion, and lower costs and new technology have helped increase margins from 8.4 to 9.5 per cent.

This is despite a 9 per cent rise in research and development spending to £176 million.

Earnings per share are 42 per cent higher at 22.5p, allowing the board to pay a final dividend of 4.75p, which lifts the total by 56 per cent to 7p a share.

Since the final quarter of 1985 the group has been generating cash at more than £1 million a day, Mr Roy Gardner, the finance director, said.

ICL, the group's computer business, lifted profits by more than £20 million to £109.9 million, and by

concentrating on niche markets, appears to have cushioned itself somewhat against an expected slowdown in growth within the industry.

Communications made £72.7 million against £56.1 million, and has a healthy order book. Component profits are a shade lower, at £20.2 million, because of heavy start-up costs on a submarine contract, while defence saw a drop from £9.4 million to £6.3 million. The business is now said to have stabilised. Tempus, page 24

Unilever's
profits
at £1.33bn

Unilever, the worldwide foods, detergents, personal products and speciality chemicals group, is poised for further volume and profits growth in 1988 after reporting a 1987 pretax profit of £1.33 billion compared with £1.14 billion.

Mr Michael Angus, the chairman, said that 1987 was a good year for Unilever. Another 16 companies were acquired for £120 million; the sale of 22 businesses realised £1.59 million.

Turnover figures show a 3 per cent decline to £16.55 billion and a pretax profit advance of 16 per cent to £1.33 billion.

However, in constant exchange rates Unilever enjoyed a sales volume increase of 9 per cent - of which 5 per cent was due to acquisitions - and saw pretax profits rise by 27 per cent.

Mr Angus said the group achieved its underlying 4 per cent volume increase after a year in which the number of employees within the group fell by 3 per cent.

Unilever is raising the final dividend from 7.234p to 8.32p a share, making a total of 11.86p (10.232p).

The shares eased by 2p to 497p.

Mr Angus, outlining Unilever's longer term ambitions, said North America and Japan were areas where increased investments would be made and that the group had all but completed the sale of businesses which were not viewed as being strategically important and which tended to under-perform.

The balance sheet had improved and group operating margins had further expanded to 8.4 per cent.

Tempus page 24

Macy's move confuses
M&S plan for Brooks

By Colin Campbell

Marks and Spencer's ambitious \$770 million (£434 million) plan to buy Brooks Brothers was further complicated yesterday when \$21 Macy's, the US stores group, stepped into the Campeau-Federated Department stores battle with a counterbid.

Macy tabled a surprise \$6.6 billion bid at \$73.80 a share for 80 per cent of Federated, topping Campeau Corporation's earlier \$68 bid worth \$6.1 billion for all of Federated. Macy's attraction to Federated stems from its ownership of Bloomingdale's, among other top market stores in New York, which would give Macy additional valuable sites in central Manhattan.

The move stunned Wall Street, while Federated said it was disappointed there was another bid on the table.

M&S said it would have to wait on developments to see where it stood, but hoped Campeau would still win Federated.

Under Macy's terms, the remaining 20 per cent of Federated's equity would be exchanged for shares in a new company - Macys/Federated - to be quoted on the New York Stock Exchange.

M&S, whose executives are cross-checking the assets of the 47 Brooks men's clothing outlets, said it was "disappointed" at the latest events.

City analysts, in the dark about the financial details of M&S's planned acquisition, said the added uncertainty surrounding M&S would further undermine its short-term investment rating.

Last week M&S announced

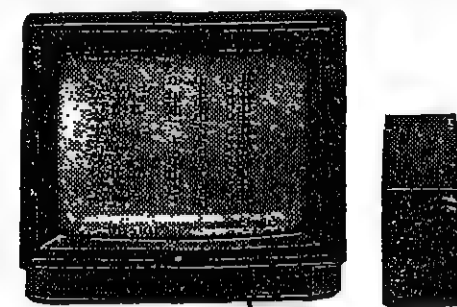
a conditional agreement with Campeau whereby it would buy the Brooks chain from Campeau once the latter had acquired Federated.

Campeau's \$68 a share offer for Federated stands until midnight on March 9. The latest turn of events may now force Campeau to raise its bid.

M&S, conscious of the City's frustration at the lack of financial detail about Brooks and the investment downgrading its shares have suffered, said its hands were tied in releasing information about Brooks until the deal was cemented.

M&S shares tumbled by 9 1/2p to 175p last week on fears that it was paying too much for Brooks. Yesterday, after initial strength, they closed 2p down at 179p.

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ONLY SECONDS TO BE FIRST

Market-Eye

British firms 'unaware of EEC change'

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

British industry is lagging well behind its European competitors in preparing itself for the demolition of trade barriers within the European Economic Community, planned for 1992. A new survey shows that the proportion of British firms with a strategy to take advantage of the internal market is less than half that in France.

The survey, carried out by Consensus Research, examined a structured sample of 375 firms, of which 175 are British and 100 each French and West German.

The survey was commissioned by the management consultancy division of the accountants Ernst & Whinney, headed by Dr Gareth Jones. Today E and W launches a scheme, called Club 1992, to help firms plan for the target date.

Awareness of the significance of 1992 has increased slightly since last autumn. A survey at that time showed that only about 15 per cent of firms were aware of the target date for the internal market, while the new survey shows about 23 per cent. This is slightly more than in Germany, but less than a third of the proportion in France.

The proportion of firms with any knowledge at all of plans to create a single market in the EEC was also slightly higher, at 38 per cent, than in Germany, but less than half the proportion in France.

Whereas awareness was equally high among all sizes of firms in France it was significantly lower among smaller companies in Britain and Germany.

Optimism in Britain is, it seems, boundless. A total of 85

per cent of firms saw positive opportunities from the completion of the internal market, slightly more than in either France or Germany.

But there are worries that the optimism could prove misplaced — as it often did following Britain's entry to the EEC in 1973 — since the proportion with a strategic plan either to protect existing markets or exploit new opportunities was only 30 per cent, compared with 36 per cent in Germany and 62 per cent in France. Britain also had the lowest proportion of firms preparing such a plan.

The City scores, if anything,



rather worse than the rest of industry, with less than half of the firms polled either having a plan or preparing one, against 60 per cent in France. This is the background against which the Bank of England has set up a taskforce to try to improve awareness and preparedness for the removal of barriers, particularly in banking and insurance.

Worryingly, in view of the existing imbalance between North and South, the North appears to be more parochial than the South. Only a quarter of firms in the North are aware of the internal market plans, compared with 46 per cent in the South.

Task Force Group in £2.4m purchase

By Allison Eadie

Task Force Group, the temporary staffing and recruitment company, is buying Planned Labour Hire, a supplier of temporary labour to contractors, for £2.4 million.

Planned Labour principally supplies heavy goods vehicle drivers and warehouse, food, clothing industry, oil, gas and petrochemical personnel. It made pretax profits, after directors' remuneration, in the year to the end of November of £96,000 and had net assets of £277,000.

Task Force originally specialised in supplying staff for the data processing industry, but has been broadening its range of services through acquisitions.

Its pretax profits in the year to the end of November rose by 43 per cent to £1.2 million on turnover up 27 per cent to £15.7 million.

The total dividend was 2.9p. The results include the Bertram Personnel Group on a merger accounting basis.

Mr Tony Martin, the chairman, said the demand for recruitment services was expanding rapidly. The company intends to pursue an active acquisition strategy.

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Expansion plans after GEC and Ferranti

Sir John calls the shots for Plessey and UK telecoms



Sir John Clark, chairman of Plessey and a top-class shot, considers he has pulled off a "left and right" — the industrial equivalent of bringing down two birds with consecutive shots from each barrel of a shotgun — benefiting British industry as well as Plessey.

The well-publicized shot was the agreement with the General Electric Company (GEC) to set up a joint venture, GEC Plessey Telecommunications (GPT), which Sir John believes gives the British telecommunications industry the chance to become a world player.

GPT, when it starts trading on April 1, is expected to have an annual turnover of £1.2 billion and be fifth in the world digital public switching league. In telecommunications overall it will come in the world top 10 companies.

The same day GEC and Plessey came to their agreement after nearly five months of negotiations, Plessey also signed the final deal for acquiring the semiconductor operations of Ferranti. It makes Plessey the largest European manufacturer of Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs), mainly comprising custom-made chips. Plessey stayed out of basic commodity chips, the most competitive area.

The two deals have achieved for Plessey and Britain the creation of world class players in both the telecommunications and semiconductor industries, claims Sir John, who says this is the culmination of a lifetime's ambition.

But where is Plessey going? For a start it is looking decidedly bid-proof, having saved itself from the GEC takeover, and now the joint venture stipulates that if either party is taken over the other has the option of buying out the remaining half at a fair price to be settled by auditors.

So if Plessey is going to show any fresh sparkle —

which would please a still-sceptical City after seeing too much of jam tomorrow from Plessey — it is down to the management, where Sir John is firmly in command.

So far nobody has emerged as an heir apparent since the departure of Sir James Blyth as chief executive last October amid suggestions of policy differences.

Sir John's tenure as chairman runs to March 1990. He is also chairman at GPT on a holding company basis with three directors drawn from each partner. There are no plans for the chairmanship to rotate and this board is concerned mainly with broad strategy.

Day-to-day running of GPT will be in the hands of an

operating board led by the managing director, Mr Richard Reynolds, the GEC Telecommunications managing director. With him as finance director will be Mr Tony Isaac, the Plessey Telecommunications finance director.

Within Plessey the key personalities in GPT are being seen as a triumvirate comprising

ing Sir John, Mr Reynolds and Mr Isaac. But Sir John has been at pains to emphasize that neither GEC nor Plessey would seek to dominate the joint venture. "It is an equal partnership. We share the common object to succeed."

Sir John said: "Traditionally the industrialist is taught that the great bogey of corporate association is a joint venture, being seen as some- thing not workable. This is simply not true — look at Unilever and Royal Dutch Shell. The top management of GEC and Plessey know what they are about."

The plan for Plessey is to expand its existing businesses by both internal growth and acquisition. Sir John foresees significant growth in aerospace. Asics, he maintains, is not just a niche market but will in time account for up to 40 per cent of total semiconductor business.

There is to be a drive into the telecommunications business, so far inhibited because Plessey directly supplied British Telecom. Pay-phone services are in Plessey's sights, and Sir John is keen to develop Plessey as an operator.

Another project on the cards is a road navigation system for Britain which could warn drivers of road jams and beam in re-routing instructions to disperse road traffic jams as they build up.

Sir John has another dream. "With the integrated European market coming in 1992 I would like to see an international defence electronics company genuinely addressing the requirements of the Western world. It will happen."

Sir John is not hazy about any guesses as to how it will happen except that it will clearly involve mergers or acquisitions among leading companies in Europe and elsewhere. But the man who already sees himself as the architect of the reconstruction of Britain's electronics industry clearly sees a significant role for Plessey and no doubt himself.

Derek Harris

Pickwick Group's £3m beats forecast

By Alexandra Jackson

Pickwick Group, the home entertainment company, beat the forecast it made when going public last April by £400,000 with 1987 pretax profits up from £1.6 million to £3 million.

Turnover increased by 65 per cent to £31.8 million. Earnings per share rose from 4.7p to 8.9p. A final dividend of 1.8p was declared making a total of 2.6p for the year.

It was the first full year for Pickwick's pre-recorded video operation in conjunction with Ladybird Books with whom Pickwick already has a book and cassette agreement.

Metal Box makes £40m Belgian buy

By Lawrence Lever

Metal Box, the packaging and engineering group, is buying a Belgian central heating manufacturer for £40 million.

Metal Box describes its purchase — Henrad Beheer NV — as "the leading manufacturer of central heating radiators in mainland Europe." A spokesman said it was the most efficient in its field, in terms of the length of the radiators it produced a week.

The company made pretax profits of about £7 million last year on sales of £28.2 million. Net assets at the end of last year were about £17 million. Henrad uses advanced radi-

Hartons raising £5.8m

Hartons Group, the plastics manufacturing company, is raising £5.8 million from its shareholders. The heavily discounted rights issue of two new shares at 25p each for every five held against a market price of 70p — is being taken up by the directors who control 35 per cent of the company. Because of the large discount being offered, Hartons has decided not to underwrite the balance of the issue. The money raised will be used to cut borrowings and provide a base for expansion.

Key ways to keep specialists

By Roland Reid

Companies with successful images, producing high quality products and willing to offer pay supplements and bonuses for specialists, are more likely to survive skill shortages.

A report out today by the Institute of Manpower Studies shows that companies unable to attract specialists have problems maintaining work loads or developing new areas. Data processing staff, computer staff and qualified finance professionals are most in demand because they tend to move between companies rather than within them and are loyal to their profession before their employer.

The report, *Retaining Specialists*, concludes that most companies do not offer huge pay incentives for fear of fuelling the pay spiral.

Several companies, recog-

nizing this, have carried out advertising campaigns aimed as much at their own staff as at the labour market.

The report identifies the following packages as possible means of retaining skilled labour:

- Good conversion training often makes staff feel more loyal to the employer, although they may make use of their more marketable skills and leave. However, the report gives a warning that specialist staff will probably leave anyway if their company does not train them.

- Structural changes can facilitate promotion for staff who might otherwise leave. Research and development can also enrich jobs.

- Fixed-term and temporary contracts offering high remuneration for new or existing

staff lead to better pay and benefits for specialists without distorting settlements for the rest of the workforce; and

- Improved benefits, including extra pensions, sickness and holiday provisions, better relocation and mortgage benefits, loans and a company car prove important incentives.

The report was based on interviews with companies in the energy industry, the financial sector, local and central government, distribution and services, manufacturing and retailing.

Retaining Specialists: IMS Report No 145, by Ms Jill Yeats, Institute of Manpower Studies, Mantell Building, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 9RF. £15 (IMS subscribers, £10).

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MARCH 2 1988
THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

BANKS, DISCOUNT

صَكَا مِنْ الْأَهْلِ

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you the daily or weekly total and check this against the daily or weekly total on the right. If it matches or better, the figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Bernford (S&W)	Food	
2	Haden MacLellan	Industrial E-K	
3	S & U Stores	Draperies	
4	Metals	Industrial L-R	
5	Heywood Williams	Building, Roads	
6	St Ives Gp	Paper, Print, Adv	
7	RHM (as)	Food	
8	Barrett (H)	Industrial A-D	
9	Jones & Shipman	Industrial E-K	
10	Harland Simon	Electrical	
11	Macro 4	Electrical	
12	Rowntree (as)	Food	
13	Unwired	Industrial E-K	
14	Beazer PLC (as)	Industrial A-D	
15	Prop. Secur	Property	
16	Barclays (as)	Bank, Discount	
17	Bulfinch	Industrial A-D	
18	Alfred Cello	Chemical, Plus	
19	Outford Industries	Electrical	
20	Phoenix Timber	Building, Roads	
21	Fitch Lovell	Food	
22	Net West (as)	Bank, Discount	
23	Cable Wireless (as)	Electrical	
24	Pentos	Draperies	
25	Granada (as)	Industrial E-K	
26	Next (as)	Draperies	
27	Blue Arrow (as)	Industrial A-D	
28	MEPC (as)	Property	
29	Ray, Elett	Electrical	
30	Boots & Hawkes	Lens	
31	Phoenix Prop	Property	
32	Bard (Wm)	Industrial A-D	
33	GLN (as)	Industrial E-K	
34	Davidson Pearce	Paper, Print, Adv	
35	Trafalgar Hse (as)	Industrial S-Z	
36	Stanley Lense	Lens	
37	Parkland 'A'	Textiles	
38	Brown Walker	Lens	
39	Raine Ind	Building, Roads	
40	Trusthouse Pl (as)	Hotel, Caterers	
41	Silicone	Oil, Gas	
42	Borland	Electrical	
43	Grand Met (as)	Hotel, Caterers	
44	Rank Op (as)	Industrial L-R	
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total			

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

BRITISH FUNDS

1987/88 High Low Company Price Dividend % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

94	Trust	C 8%	1980	102%	100	100	2.85
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277	Trust	C 8%	1980	102%	100	100	2.85
278	Trust	C 8%	1980	102%	100	100	2.

MEDIA & MARKETING

Radio without interference

OPINION

David Newell

Much publicity has been given to Congress's codification of the United States Federal Communications Commission's rules limiting cross-media ownership. This has the effect of preventing the common ownership of a daily newspaper and a television station in the same city. As a result, Rupert Murdoch has been asked to choose between selling either the *New York Post* or his New York television station, and either the *Boston Herald* or his Boston station.

Surprisingly, in view of the British Government's recent announcements concerning the development of national, local and community radio, little public debate has taken place concerning future cross-media ownership here.

With the possible development of urban television and the proliferation of other media outlets, this subject will become of increasing importance. Existing cross-media ownership is regulated by the Broadcasting Act 1981. The Act presumes that the "public interest" is best served by precluding newspaper publishers from having a significant involvement in the development of radio and television — particularly in their areas of circulation.

This presumption has been followed by the Cable and Broadcasting Act 1984, which prevents local newspaper publishers (but not national newspaper publishers) from being cable operators in their newspapers' areas of circulation.

The existing legislative structure is riddled with anomalies. For example, while newspaper publishers are precluded from having a controlling interest in radio and television stations, such stations (but not cable stations) are permitted to own and publish newspapers in their areas of operation. Little account has been taken of the growing range of media outlets: national newspapers, local newspapers, free dis-

tribution newspapers and magazines, direct mail, radio, television, satellite and cable. Newspaper publishers have never had a monopoly of communication outlets in their chosen areas of circulation, and their relative strength has diminished over the years.

The Home Secretary's recent announcement that there will be an expansion in radio stations — possibly three national commercial stations and 500 or so local ones — failed to mention the ownership rules which will apply.

It has been reported that the new Broadcasting Bill, to be introduced in October 1988, will significantly limit newspaper publishers' shareholdings in radio stations, and radio stations' shareholdings in newspapers. While newspaper publishers in the States have had a choice which they are fighting to preserve, their UK counterparts are battling to be allowed — for the first time — to operate radio stations. Surely, central to the Government's policy, which is to reduce the regulation of radio, should be a radical relaxation of ownership provisions.

The growth in the range and level of communication outlets should mitigate against concentration in media ownership and enable newspaper publishers to have freedom to own radio stations, particularly in areas covered by a wide variety of communication outlets.

Fair competition between the various media for audiences and advertisers can only be guaranteed by enhancing freedom of competition and removing the current regulatory barriers which distort competition. Audience and advertiser choice is likely to be enhanced by removing the restrictions which prevent newspaper publishers from playing a full part in the development of broadcasting.

David Newell is a solicitor and Head of Government and Legal Affairs at the Newspaper Society.

Adding up to another boom

New computer analysis suggests the advertising business should be optimistic, reports Carys Bowen-Jones

Glad tidings and great joy are in store for the UK advertising industry, despite last October's Stock Market crash, if J. Walter Thompson — the country's biggest agency — has its sums right.

The boffins at JWT's Berkeley Square offices have gazed into their statistical tea leaves to predict growth in advertising spending "comparable in real terms with the boom period of the past seven years". They expect expenditure to grow at an average of more than 5 per cent a year in real terms for the rest of the decade — only slightly less than the average annual increase of 6 per cent since 1980.

"Contrary to the belief of some ill-informed media commentators, the advertising industry represents a mature and rational market which isn't troubled by the emotional whims of the Stock Exchange," says Laurence Hagan, marketing development director of JWT, and co-author of the report "The Outlook for Advertising After the Crash", to be published later this month.

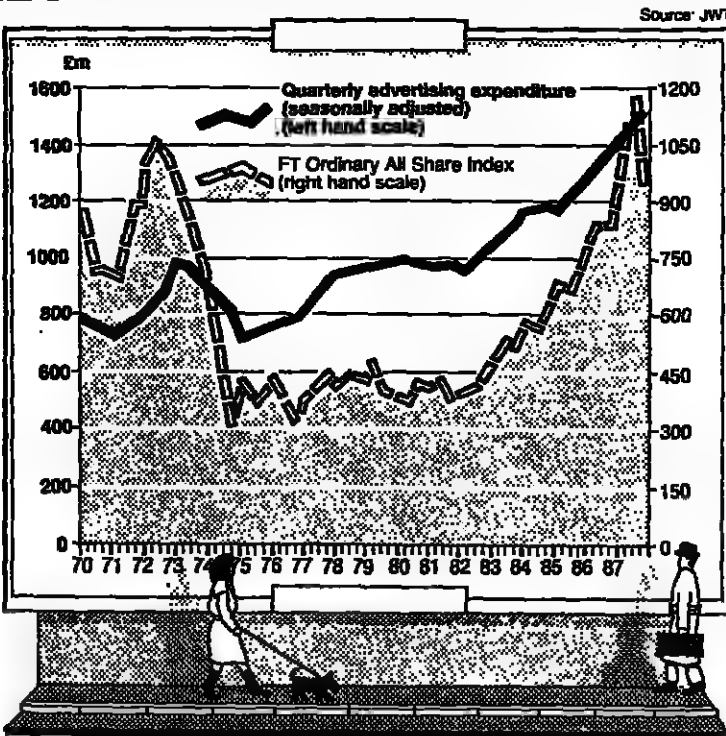
JWT believes the impact of the crash on advertising budgets will be slight, limited largely to 1989, when it predicts a dip in the rate of growth from 5.5 per cent to 4.3 per cent. In 1990, the growth rate should have recovered to 6.4 per cent, it says.

The agency bases its soothing analysis on two studies. The first is a computer analysis of the economic and marketing variables which have affected spending in the past and which are, therefore, most likely to affect it in the future. The second is a study by IFF, the business research specialist, among 100 managing and marketing directors from the UK's top 500 advertisers.

Through the 1980s, advertising spending has grown explosively — twice as fast as inflation — pouring an estimated £5.8 billion into the industry's coffers last year. But if the boom has paralleled the bull run on the Stock Market, which saw share prices almost triple in real terms, it is not inextricably linked to its attitudes to advertising following the crash.

Canal Plus, the booming French pay-TV channel that is unique in Europe, shows up to six films in an afternoon and evening, and is one of the main reasons for the audience crisis in French cinemas. Italian investors recently transformed the Marbeuf cinema, off the Champs-Élysées, into a multi-level restaurant. The Gaumont in Lyons is now an office building. Other cinemas have become shopping arcades, even nightclubs.

Angry cinema owners have bombarded François Léotard, Culture and Communication Minister, with protests that Canal Plus's string of some 400 films a year has cut



Advertising is not inextricably linked with share prices. Spending recovered in five years after the 1973 oil crisis; share prices took 15 years into their attitudes to advertising following the crash.

fewer films than Home Box Office — the United States company that served as its model — but mixes in lots of sport, talk shows and satirical news programmes. Late at night and early in the morning, it adds X-rated films. The audience is mainly 25 to 40-year-old urban couples with children.

Company president, André Rousselet, a 65-year-old former civil servant, has said profits could well double by 1990. If so, this would make Canal Plus the most profitable TV operation in Europe. Rousselet launched Canal Plus in 1984 after a visit to the United States to study Home Box Office. The channel lost a staggering £40 million the first year, but suddenly took off and became the most successful pay-TV operation outside North America with an exceptional 90 per cent renewal rate for subscriptions. The main reason for success is the chance to see major films only one year old.

Death at the box office

For French cinema owners, television channel Canal Plus is proving a disaster

well, fully recovering by 1978, whereas share prices took 15 years to regain their 1972 levels in real terms.

Advertising budgets are set according to what companies can afford and what sort of return they expect on their investment, says the report, making company profitability and consumer spending the key influence on advertising decisions. These two factors account for 97 per cent of all variation in advertising expenditure in the last 16 years according to JWT's model. And of the two, consumer spending is the more important element, says Hagan. "Advertising expenditure is roughly four to five times more dependent on consumer spending than it is on company profitability. It is the long term driving force behind marketing decisions, while company profitability acts as a short term break over desired intentions."

JWT's predictions for ad spending into the 1990s are based on the London Business School's economic forecasts, which have anticipated a slight slowdown in consumer spending, based on current prices, from 9.3 per cent a year since 1980, to 7.5 per cent between now and 1990. The less decisive influence on advertising, company profit, is expected to take a much harsher knock, with annual growth down from 17.5 per cent to 7 per cent a year over the same periods. Nevertheless, points out Hagan, profits are not expected to take the hammering they did in the 1970s recession.

So far, JWT's crystal ball is built on history and economic predictors. Phil Gullen, media development

director of JWT and co-author of the study, warns: "Our predictions will only come true if people who set advertising budgets behave as our model suggests." The findings of the IFF survey indicate that they will, began interviewing, by chance, "Against that background," says Gullen, "the levels of optimism we found are quite astounding."

Seventy per cent of those questioned anticipated bumping up their ad budgets in real terms over the next two to three years, 30 per cent by "a lot", reflecting bullish expectations that both consumer spending and profits would increase. The more optimistic directors were, the more likely they were to look forward to substantial hikes in their budgets.

If consumer spending and profits are two key influences, then companies' motives for advertising are another. While 80 per cent saw advertising as vital for launching new products, between 70 and 80 per cent highlighted its importance for maintaining brand awareness and defending their corner against competitors.

The expansionist mood found among advertisers by JWT will be music to the ears of agencies and media owners. So, too, will the conclusion that, despite the predictable grumblings over the cost and supply of TV air-time, television is still seen as by far the most cost-effective advertising medium — over three times more so than its closest rival, magazines.

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MEDIA & MARKETING

On top of the news

Michael Buerk, the distinguished BBC foreign correspondent, this week became the second winner of the annual James Cameron award, presented to the journalist in the British media judged to have made the best contribution to the Cameron tradition of journalism.

In Buerk's case, the award has been made for his dispatches from South Africa, which he covered from 1984 until being expelled by the South African government last year. He had, said the judges — who include Jeremy Isaacs and Sandy Gall — "brought to one of the biggest stories of the decade clarity of vision and real human understanding."

Yesterday, Buerk, who has already been laden with TV honours for his coverage of the Ethiopian famine, described himself as "frightfully pleased". South Africa had, he said, been a special assignment. "There is nothing more exciting than living in the middle of a developing story. And I don't think there is any country which has such giant figures on the journalistic landscape. Eugene Terreblanche, Bishop Tutu, Chief Buthe."

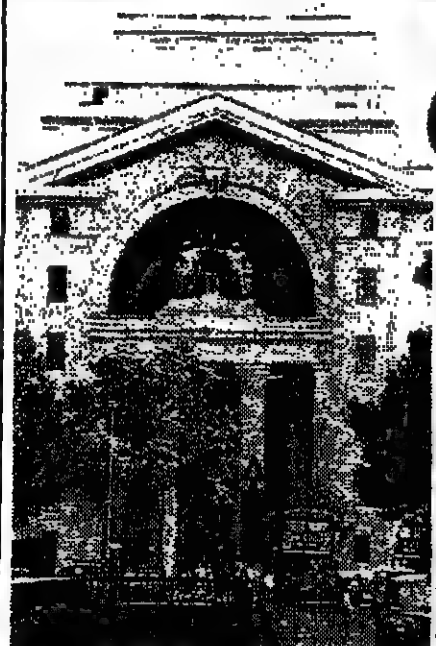
He is in a good position to judge; altogether, he has reported for some 48 countries since joining BBC television news in 1973. Previously he had worked for *The Western Mail*, the *Daily Mail*, BBC Radio Bristol, ITV Bristol, and BBC Southampton.

His latest job is that of regular presenter for BBC Television *One O'Clock News*. The programme has steadily increased its audience since he arrived last October. Being in England has its advantages, he says — such as being able to arrange dinner parties without fear of interruption. In South Africa he was on constant call, day and night, for seven days a week.

But the life of the foreign correspondent still beckons. "I'd hate to think that I'd never be out on the hoof again. It's the most wonderful job in the world. Someone's actually paying you to be in the front row of world events."

Kate Finch

The BBC is polishing its foreign service, Kate Finch writes



This week, the BBC Russian Service has a new head. David Morton, formerly the editor of Radio 4's prestige current affairs programme *Analysis* has arrived at Bush House to bring a gloss of broadcasting professionalism to the Russian emigrés who compile the BBC's broadcasts to Moscow.

Morton is the first person with substantial programme experience in other parts of the BBC to be appointed to the post. As such, he epitomizes the new attitude permeating the External Services since John Tusa became managing director 18 months ago.

Under Tusa's suzerainty, Bush House is slowly evolving from a slightly old-fashioned — almost quaint — backwater, reflecting the broadcasting attitudes of 20 years ago, into an up-to-date, high-profile organization with closer links to the mainstream of the BBC.

The External Services' nomination — by a group of MPs — for the 1988 Nobel peace prize is the latest publicity coup for Tusa who denies, naturally, that his own

clever footwork lay behind the suggestion. There are other examples. Bush House specialists on various parts of the world, having toiled for years in obscurity, now find themselves advising mainstream BBC news programmes.

The Russian service which David Morton inherits has, for example, already undergone great changes. The arrival of *glasnost*, allied with the unjamming of broadcasts to Russia a year ago, required that the BBC should abandon its traditional staid output, laden with repeats, for programmes to which Russians would actually wish to listen. A rock music show and a lively current affairs discussion programme, *Argument*, have resulted. Not every initiative has succeeded. The intention to start up a Korean service ran into the ground. Another main plank of reform, that of reorganizing the newsroom both to decentralize editorial control and better serve the needs of the individual sections, received a temporary setback when the man appointed to implement the changes, Stephen

Claypole, left after six months for a better-paid job.

The external services, run perpetually on a shoestring, cannot match the salaries offered by other broadcasting organizations. Now the aim is to tighten up journalistic standards. The majority of the 60 or so staff working for the Russian Service are emigrés from one era or another. As well as holding vastly different views on what the BBC ought to be broadcasting — sometimes resulting in an atmosphere riven with dissension — most of them are not journalists or broadcasters by profession.

It is not just the Russians who are under scrutiny. A peculiarity of Bush House has been that the 36 language sections have been left very much to their own devices. Part of the Tusa revolution has been to institute, for the first time, a proper programme monitoring regime. For three days at random, the output of each service is closely scrutinized and the organizers called to account. So far, five have been monitored. "The Poles were found to have too narrow a world view," said Tusa. "Too much of their output was centred on eastern Europe. On the other hand, the Indonesians had rather too broad a view of events."

The change most remarked upon by Bush House staff is Tusa's personal style. He makes his presence felt. In the morning, he breakfasts in the basement canteen with whoever happens to be around. Unannounced, he walks into studios while programmes are being made. In conversation, Tusa — best known before his current elevation as a presenter on BBC2's *Newsnight* — has discarded the demeanour of the journalist and now emanates the brisk authority of a senior member of the BBC hierarchy. But by his own account, he remains a questioning journalist at heart. "I don't assume that life revolves around a large office," he says. "I'm happiest talking to journalists about their stories."

Personal popularity has resulted. As one old Bush House hand enthused: "There's the feeling that someone is at the top who is politically sussed out and sees us as part of the BBC as a whole." But what of the perennial battle with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office over funding? The annual broadcasting grant of around £100 million a year has been confirmed on a three-year basis. The fight is now on for a further £3 million to fund a World Television Service. Whether Tusa will persuade the FCO to back this next stage of the Bush House revolution remains an open question.

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Programme for change

Back on a favourite hobby-horse, *Time Out* publisher, Tony Elliott, is trying to overturn the *Radio Times*/*TV Times* monopoly on TV listings, three years after his last attempt failed. With support once more from *The Sunday Times* editor Andrew Neil and the EMAP publishing group, Elliott in December retained parliamentary lobbyist Ian Greer Associates to press for a change in the law to be incorporated in the Copyright Bill or the forthcoming Broadcasting Bill, and to keep members of the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs well-briefed as they continue their inquiry into broadcasting.

The campaign has received a timely boost with news that Channel 4 is reviewing its contract with *TV Times* to see if it could make money by selling its programme details to other publications. Elliott says the National Consumer Council is also keen to see the monopoly overturned as are local cable operators, who are forced to carry BBC and ITV programmes, but cannot print details of them in their own local programme guides.

Off the record

On *The Record*, the weekly political programme planned to replace BBC1's *This Week*. Next week, has been postponed until the autumn, a victim of the Commons vote in favour of television and of the BBC's failure to get the presenters it wanted. Minds and resources are now concentrated instead on televising Parliament and deciding if the new programme is really necessary if a weekly review of the Commons is also launched. Meanwhile, BBC journalists are still reported to be seething with distrust of the new John Birt regime, criticized for excessive centralization by *Observer* editor Donald Trefford at last week's Royal Television Society awards. "What people have to understand here is the need for some sort of oversight," reports one BBC-appointed executive. "People have to be more disciplined."

Going up-market

EMAP National, Peterborough-based publisher of *Garden News* and *Motor Cycle News* could be about to shed its gardening gloves and leathers for something a little more fashionable by entering the crowded women's magazine market. The division's new managing director, Peter Strong, has just completed a term as EMAP's group creative director, where he studied the prospects for EMAP in new markets — including the women's magazine sector. "That doesn't mean I've come to EMAP National to launch women's magazines," says Strong. But, he adds: "There's always room for a good idea."

News of note

Controller John Drummond's reshaping of Radio 3 is not yet complete. Having got rid of BBC World Service news bulletins from Bush House, Drummond now has agreement from the newsroom at Broadcasting House to supply bulletins tailor-made for Radio 3, with a greater emphasis on arts news. But it may take longer to realize another of Drummond's ambitions: an agreement with the Musicians' Union allowing recordings by BBC orchestras to be released as commercial discs.

Scene changes

Anthony Smith is leaving the British Film Institute in October after nine years as director, for the president's lodge at Magdalen College, Oxford. Possible successors include Brian Womack, lately of the BBC, film-maker Roger Graef, Richard Palford of the South Bank arts complex and Ian Christie, the BFI's head of distribution. The appointment will be one of the last acts of the present chairman, Sir Richard Attenborough, whose own successor could well be Jeremy Isaacs.

Briefly...

Jo Foley, once editor of *Woman* and the *Observer Magazine*, has been appointed editor of Carlton Magazines' monthly *Options*. *The Media Show* returns to Channel 4 next Tuesday. LBC has launched a 30-minute programme at 5.30am each weekday, *Dawn Traders*, aimed at early-rising City types.

Nick Higham

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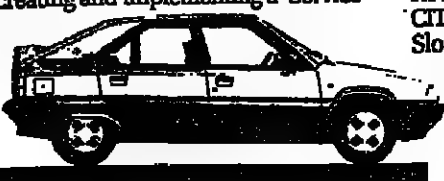
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Please apply in writing, enclosing a full CV, to:

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Head of Sales & Marketing Services,
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113 Park Lane,
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The successful candidate will be joining a journal with an unsurpassed reputation in its market and will be expected to at least maintain our standards - contributing actively to our constant quest for self-improvement.

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NUJ terms and conditions, as outlined in the house agreement, apply to this vacancy.

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Declan Kelly Group plc

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Closing date for applications is 9/3/88.

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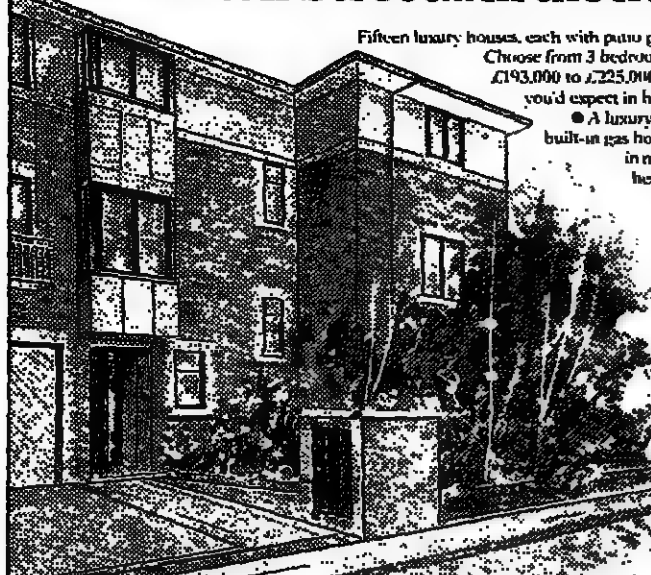
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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY/1

River views with a value

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Development in London Docklands continues apace, despite or regardless of the stock market crash last October, which was supposed to bring its boom time to an end. Certainly an air of reality has tempered the wider prices being demanded - and achieved - during previous months, and while some speculators may have to wait longer to make their profit, and some developers adopt a more cautious programme, it is still an area in demand.

It will be many years before it loses its resemblance to a building site, but more people are buying to move in, rather than to invest, and a new survey by Savills, which has three offices in Docklands, shows a more practical attitude both by those who live there already and by potential Docklanders.

For both groups the greatest single need is more shops. The planned June opening of Tobacco Dock, whose claim is to be the new Covent Garden, will help. The second most important single amenity lacking, again for both groups, is transport. As development and population increase, both residential and commercial, the difficulties of travelling to Docklands become more marked. The light railway is plying its trade, but road traffic always seems to be in a jam, and new roads are years away.

The neglected route is the river, which is otherwise recognized as one of the strongest magnets attracting people to the area. People clamour for a flat or

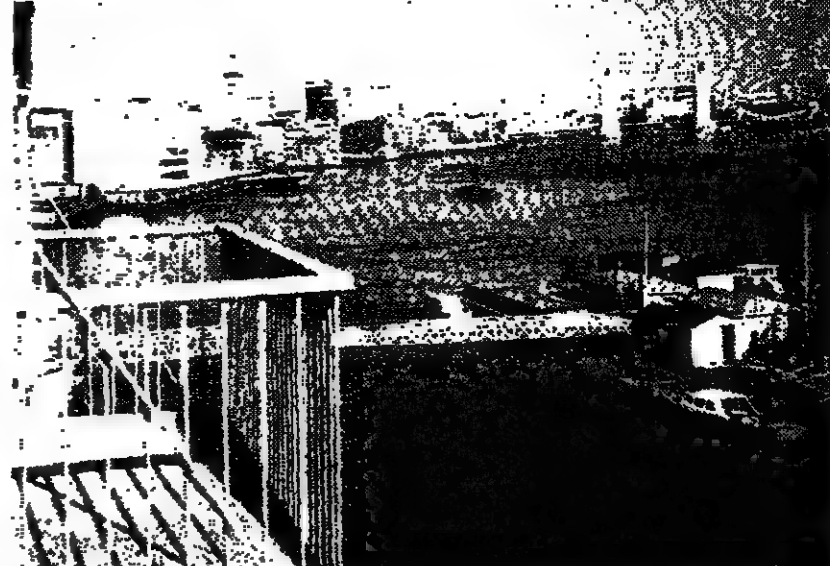
Chelsea to the Isle of Dogs in 30 minutes

house with a river frontage or even a distant river view, and the estate agents are not reluctant to bring the proximity of the river into their brochures wherever they can.

Several attempts have been made to encourage travellers to use the river, but so far they have not been successful. Now a new firm, Thames Line, financed through the Business Expansion Scheme, is planning a comprehensive service along the Thames from as far west as Chelsea Harbour to the Royal Dock at Woolwich. It would use possibly 30 piers, of which only 12 at present exist. So far the firm is carrying 1,500 passengers a week to the Isle of Dogs, and from the summer it intends to provide a 15-minute service at eight piers from Chelsea Harbour to Greenwich.

With no speed limit, and craft capable of speeds of more than 25mph, the journey from Chelsea to Charing Cross will take 15 minutes, to the City 20 minutes and to the Isle of Dogs only 30 minutes.

One of the first Docklands develop-



On the water: The view from the new houses at Cherry Garden Pier

ments to benefit from the river bus is Cherry Garden Pier at Rotherhithe on the south bank. The journey from there to Swan Lane near London Bridge takes five minutes, putting the Bank of England within 15 minutes door-to-door, say agents Carleton Smith & Co.

Martin Carleton Smith, who has been an agent in Docklands longer than most, looks ahead eagerly. "This is really what the relationship between the City and Docklands is all about," he says, "and I can see a time when people living down here use the river bus with the same casual nonchalance as the citizens of Venice use the vaporetto."

Cherry Garden Pier is a development of five terraces containing 44 houses and apartments, of which 14 have direct river views, built by Lovell Urban Renewal. They range from one-bedroom apartments to four-bedroom houses with first-floor reception rooms, all within a couple of minutes of the pier. Prices for the first phase, available through Carleton Smith, range from £159,950 to £239,000, the differential largely the result of the riverside frontage.

Here, criticism that expensive developments are cutting out the local people cannot be sustained. A local campaign, led by the Cherry Garden Action Committee, led to agreement for 64 council homes on the adjacent site previously designated for private housing. It should create the sort of balanced community that Docklands needs.

At present, perceptions, if not the reality, point to the predominance of the wealthy. City, yuppie culture. Savills' research among local people shows they believe 17 per cent to be yuppies, 20 per cent City and business people, and 32 per cent wealthy. Dominic Grace, of Savills, comments that the London Docklands Development Corporation has not managed to get the message across that of the

3,250 completed residential units in Docklands so far, 1,850 have been sold to local people at "affordable" prices.

From its applicants for property in Docklands, Savills has built up a profile showing that most (76 per cent) are between 21 and 40, nearly two-thirds married, and more than half (54 per cent) work in the City. Mr Grace says: "Nearly one in five of our applicants are from the financial and banking sector, but there is otherwise an even spread across many professions. Docklands buyers are not all 'Eurobond yuppies', as is so often portrayed."

New residents have main house in Docklands

An important feature is that 68 per cent were buying in Docklands for their main house, showing that people are now beginning to move in to live there, and demonstrating a move away from the dealer market.

The latest warehouse development to come on to the market is by Wates Built Homes in Wapping High Street, where 35 apartments at Prusom's Island are being completed, ranging from studios at £95,000 to large three-bedroom apartments up to £300,000. The central feature of the scheme, one block away from the river, is an atrium in the central courtyard. The scheme also includes 15 houses, each with its own paved patio, costing £193,000 to £225,000. Details are available on 01-481 3576.

An exhibition of residential property in Docklands will be held at the Tower Thistle Hotel near Tower Bridge on March 11 (5pm-8pm), March 12 (10am-7pm) and March 13 (10am-5pm).

See more property, page 40

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CRICKET: GATTING'S MEN MUST REGAIN THE KILLER TOUCH IN NEW ZEALAND WHILE IN THE CARIBBEAN THERE IS A NEED TO UNEARTH NEW TEST TALENT

Spinners brought in but England lack killer instinct

From Alan Lee, Wellington, New Zealand

England intend to include two spinners in the final Test match against New Zealand at the Basin Reserve, which begins tomorrow. This is a welcome attacking policy change, though not in itself enough to alter the course of the tour, for if England seriously aim to prevent this series dragging on to a soporific scoreless draw then both their outlook and their cricket must be urgently reviewed.

With due regard to the handicaps of lifeless pitches and a relentless itinerary, both expounded by the captain, Mike Gatting in the past 48 hours, the fact remains that England are up against the weakest opposition, Sri Lanka possibly excepted, they will face for some years to come. At present, they are lamentably failing to make the most of the opportunity.

Part of the problem could be that England have forgotten how to win. They have not, it seems, fully recognized that this New Zealand Test will be a hard one. Hadlee, Hadlee and Martin Crowe short of form, in most areas little better than an ordinary county side. They would be seen off embarrassingly quickly by an international team blessed with the self-confidence which England have very evidently mislaid.

In both Test matches played so far, England have established a position to dictate, only for the killer instinct to desert them. Their inability to

translate sessions won (a favourite claim of Mickie Stewart, the team manager) into wins, seems to be a constant theme.

At Eden Park, in the match which finished only on Monday, England scored their runs far too slowly on the third day. Pressure was thus placed on the later batsmen and an advantageous situation was lost through inertia and anxiety. Gatting himself admitted tonight that he can see some truth in this assertion, though he added: "We must always have it in mind not to be reckless and finish a day with about 260 for seven."

This perfectly illustrates my point. Perhaps unwittingly, England are now conditioned to the priority of avoiding defeat. The quality of players now available means that they then have no time, and no resources, to conjure up any real possibility of victory.

They have not been helping themselves by some of the sloppiest catching and, in some instances, outfielding. I have seen from an England team in the past dozen years. Nine players had a try at slip fielding in Auckland; only Capel held a catch. The statistic relating to missed chances in this area is now too appalling to repeat and until England begin hanging on to a higher percentage, early inroads into this vulnerable

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Test on shaky ground

By Simon Wilde

The Basin Reserve, Wellington, is an ordinary venue. It can claim to have been created on a lake by an earthquake (in 1853, when a major shift of land destroyed one cricket ground and made another) and to be the only ground in the world to have experienced an earthquake during a Test (in 1950-51, on the final day of the second Test with England).

Bowlers can still get help from moisture in the pitch, as they can from the strong winds that frequently blow over the ground. When New Zealand beat England in a Test for the first time, in 1977-78, after 48 years of

Top-scorer in that match was Boycott, who, despite being constantly troubled by grit getting behind his contact lenses, scored 442 runs for 77. The only man to score more than that during England's two previous games there, in 1950-51 and 1962-63, both of which they won in three days' play, was Cowdrey (128 not out, in 1959-60).

England now simply have to put it into practice to give this series a sting in the tail.

Although Barbados have been challenging quite strongly for this year's Red Stripe Cup, which is the Caribbean equivalent of the County Championship or the Sheffield Shield, they are in the final of the latest one-day competition, they have less cause than for a long time to be confident of their cricketing future.

Since the last war they have seen a decline in the number of players in the West Indies side; sometimes they have had seven. In three or four years' time, by when Marshall, Greenidge and Haynes will probably have given up, they may well have none.

There are many reasons for this. West Indies' poor showing in the last World Cup has, of course, cast its shadow. But chief amongst them is the fact that the West Indies have no available talent to replace the players who have left. I have just spent a fortnight there in which I saw some of the impromptu games of cricket that have for so long been such a constant feature of life on the island and which the guide books extol.

Of those who used to play in them, some are playing video games instead; others are watching American television. An getting hooked on basketball or we are engaged in every sort of water sport, in that gorgeous purple sea, from beaching around the shore to a sort of like a horrid little motorboat to stunting flying fish with some form of explosive and selling them at the roadside. Squash is more available than it was, and football and hockey are much more popular. Life is pretty good, and bowling is hard work.

The latest cricketing talent must be as abundant as it ever was. You need only to have seen the average Bajan hit or catch or even a cricket ball to know that. Between April 1924 and January 1926 Frank Worrell, Everton Weekes (now a leading light in the bridge world) and Clyde Walcott, three cricketers who were born in Barbados within a mile or two of each other. In 1966 the island side was able to take on the Rest of the World in a match to celebrate their independence without only persuaded England to recall Hemmings, but New Zealand to bring Book out of retirement. Book, a grocer from Otago, has again been the leading wicket-taker in the Shell Trophy programme this season. His left-arm spin will alleviate the monotony of medium pace, just as Hemmings' flighted off breaks will do for England.

It is Gatting's theory that some of the New Zealanders, including Monday's centurion, Greatbatch, are not very comfortable against spin bowling. Book's domestic success might confirm the theory. England now simply have to put it into practice to give this series a sting in the tail.

Time and again, club and school sides from England on tour of Barbados have soon found themselves on the back foot against opponents who rely not on ordinary bats, like West Indies, but on the conditions. The straight, good-length ball has a nasty way of disappearing over the mid-wicket boundary, as I am sure it always will.

No doubt, too, great fast bowlers will continue to emerge from the island. The West Indies, after all, are big and strong and unambitious; others, like Malcolm Marshall, because they have such rhythm and timing. For the moment, though, those concerned with cricket in Barbados are undoubtedly worried. The last young Barbadian to appear from Barbados and play as prodigies was Desmond Haynes, and he is 32 now, his attacking flair long since constrained by the pitches at Kensington Oval, the last ground in Barbados, which have for too long given disproportionate help to fast bowlers.

For the time being, Antigua has taken the place of Barbados as the most prolific cricketing source in the Caribbean. An island of similar size (not a lot larger than the Isle of Wight) and with only a third of the population, it has Vivian Richards as its inspiration and aspires to set up a first-class team to play as prodigies. The series against Pakistan, which was to be a last hurrah for good cricket. But of the younger school the only batsman expected to play any significant part was Carl Hooper, a Guyanese who was not playing against Barbados because he had a finger broken earlier in the week by Marshall, playing in a one-day game. Two other young batsmen with a touch of the



Barbadian masters: Gary Sobers (left) and Frank Worrell, two of the world's finest players

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The one afternoon's cricket which I watched in Barbados last month was entirely unlike the popular image of the West

Indies game. Although in a strong position against a weak Guyanese side, and in front of a good crowd, Barbados scored 45 runs in 32 overs between lunch and tea, losing no wickets and yet playing hardly a stroke of any kind. The batsmen were Best and Payne, both Test players. "Cricket, only cricket" was the headline next day. In the end, Marshall and Garner came in and rattled the ball around and then won the match with their bowling, but it was not so much a game of Caribbean flavour as of contemporary cricket anywhere.

So it is that over 30, that West Indies will be looking in the series of three Test matches against Pakistan, starting in Georgetown later this month, and in England this summer. The series against Pakistan promises to be a last hurrah for good cricket. But of the younger school the only batsman expected to play any significant part was Carl Hooper, a Guyanese who was not playing against Barbados because he had a finger broken earlier in the week by Marshall, playing in a one-day game. Two other young batsmen with a touch of the

Caribbean genius which cricket needs to make it sparkle are Keith Arthurton, a left-hander from Nevis, and Sudesh Dhaniram, of Guyana.

Marshall, Garner, Gray, Walsh, Patterson (known now as "Batters"), Davis, Holding, Roberts, Baptiste, Benjamin and a new giant from Antigua by the name of Curtley Ambrose - throughout the islands it is still the fast bowlers who are doing most of the damage, physical and otherwise. On a recent visit from New York, where he now lives, Lance Gibbs (309 wickets in Test cricket with off breaks) said of the current crop of West Indian spinners that they failed to "loop the ball" and were too negative. Slow bowlers, he said, were being brought in to the West Indies side, if at all, "merely to give pace bowlers a breathing spell."

They are hoping that the sight of Abdul Qadir, twirling away for Pakistan, may prompt a spinners' revival - not only in the villages and on the beaches of Barbados. It would be wonderful if it did.

John Woodcock

Jamaicans draw but claim new trophy

Kingston (Reuters) - Jamaica won the inaugural Red Stripe Cup championship, the successor to the Shell Shield, on Monday when they drew their final match against Trinidad and Tobago, who batted out the fourth day after finishing 150 runs behind on first innings.

Marlon Tucker, the Jamaican captain, received the Red Stripe Cup from the island's Governor General, Sir Florizel Glaspole, when the match was called off with 10 of the first 20 overs remaining. And the team also Paul Gueddes, chairman of the Red Stripe brewery.

The Trinidadians were helped by a typically dogged 60 from their captain, Larry Gomes, the former West Indies batsman who was brought out of retirement to lead the side.

In other matches which ended on Monday, Leeward Islands beat Barbados by 10 wickets in Bridgetown to finish runners-up, and Guyana beat Windward Islands by nine wickets in Guyana in a bottom-of-the-table match.

The Leeward Islands were set up by a splendid 176, the highest score this season, from Richardson, the two Antigua Test players. The fast bowler Ambrose, set a new record for the most wickets in a West Indies season, his 35 surpassing the 33 set by Winston Davis in 1983. He was due to play for Northamptonshire in this season's County Championship, but selection for the West Indies tour seems certain. Scores: Trinidad and Tobago 228 (G. Williams 77, A. Lorge 48, P. Haynes 6-58) and 200 for one (R. Gomes 65, A. Gray 47, A. Lorge 45, Jamaica 378 (P. Dugan 60, C. Davidson 55, M. Nerts 45), Match drawn.

May's team will remain unchanged

Peter May faces his seventh year as chairman of England's selectors. The selectors, including Phil Sharp, Fred Titmus and Micki Stewart will also be re-elected unopposed at tomorrow's spring meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board. David Allen, the former Gloucestershire spinner, was nominated for a place on the panel but withdrew because of business commitments.

May took over from Alec Bedser as chairman of selectors in 1981, intending to hold the job for four years. Since then England have played 65 Tests, winning 14 and losing 24. This summer May and his panel must find a team to end a run of 10 consecutive Test defeats against the West Indies.

Don Topley, the Essex medium-pace bowler, has had a shin operation, but is expected to be fit when the season starts next month.

Queen's Bench Division

Law Report March 2 1988

Chancery Division

Duty of bank over unlawful transfers

Barclays Bank plc v Quincecare Ltd and Another
Before Mr Justice Steyn
[Judgment February 24]

A banker was under a duty to refrain from executing an order to transfer funds from a company's current account if he had reasonable grounds for believing that the order was an attempt to misappropriate the funds of the company. The test was the perception of an ordinary prudent banker.

Mr Justice Steyn so held in the Queen's Bench Division in finding for the plaintiff, Barclays Bank plc, against Quincecare Ltd and another, in a claim for damages for breach of duty.

The bank had agreed to lend £400,000 to Quincecare, whose chairman caused about £340,000 to be drawn on and misapplied for his dishonest purposes. Almost the entire sum was lost. Unbeknownst to the bank, the customer had guaranteed the loan.

Mr Timothy Walker, QC and Miss Geneva Calkins, QC for the bank; Mr Roydon Thomas, QC and Mr Simon Browne-Wilkinson for Quincecare; Mr Martin Mann, QC and Mr Roger Kaye for Unilever.

MR JUSTICE STEYN said that while finding the approach of

Mr Justice Allott in *Lipkin Gorman v Karpanal Ltd* ([1987] 1 WLR 987), inquisitive on the duty of a bank's contractual duties towards its customer, he wanted an independent examination of a bank's duties. His Lordship's observations were restricted to the relationship of banker and customer in the context of a bank transfer of money from a current account on the customer's instructions.

As agent the bank owed fiduciary duties to Quincecare. Every agent for reward was also bound to exercise reasonable care and skill in carrying out the instructions of his principal. There was no logical or sensible reason for holding that bankers were immune from such an elementary obligation.

It was an implied term of the contract between the bank and the customer that the bank would observe reasonable skill and care in and about executing the customer's orders. Moreover, notwithstanding what was said in *Tai Hing Cotton Mill Ltd v Lue Chong Hong Bank Ltd* ([1986] AC 80, 107), a bank's duty in such a case was not to be bound in tort as well as contract; see *Midland Bank Trust Co Ltd v Hett Stubb & Kemp (in Liquidation)* ([1979] Ch 384).

Given that the bank owed a legal duty to exercise reasonable care in and about executing the customer's order to transfer money, it was necessary to ask what duty which was generally speaking subordinate to the order which was the customer's order. *Ex hypothesi* one was considering a case where the bank received a valid and proper order which it was bound to execute on pain of incurring liability for consequential loss to the customer.

If the bank executed the order knowing it to be dishonestly given, abetting its eyes to the obvious fact of the dishonesty or acting recklessly in failing to make such inquiries as an honest and reasonable man would have made, no problem arose: the bank would plainly be liable. But in real life such a stark situation seldom arose.

In judging where the line was to be drawn there were countervailing policy considerations. The law should not impose too burdensome an obligation on bankers, which hampered the effective transfer of money in business transactions. On the other hand, the law should exact a reasonable standard of care in order to combat fraud and protect bank customers and innocent third parties.

In his Lordship's judgment the sensible compromise, which struck a fair balance between competing considerations, was that a banker must refrain from executing an order, if and for as long as the banker was "put on inquiry" in the sense that he had reasonable grounds (although not necessarily proof) for believing that the order was an attempt to misappropriate the funds of the company (see *Lipkin Gorman v Karpanal Ltd* at p1006). And the external standard of the likely perception of an ordinary prudent banker was the governing one. That was not too high a standard.

Everything would no doubt depend on the particular facts of each case. But there was one particular factor which would often be decisive, namely, the consideration that, in the absence of telling indications to the contrary, a banker would usually approach a suggestion that a director of a corporate company was trying to defraud the company with an initial reaction of instinctive disbelief. But it was right to say that trust, not distrust was that basis of a bank's dealings with its customers.

Solicitors: Durrant Piesse; Farmer, Cranston, Southwark; Reckitts.

Establishing adverse possession

Buckinghamshire County Council v Moran
Before Mr Justice Hoffmann
[Judgment February 19]

What was necessary to show the required *animus possidendi* to establish adverse possession was not an intention to own or even an intention to acquire ownership of the land but merely an intention to possess.

Mr Justice Hoffmann so held in the Chancery Division in dismissing an action by Buckinghamshire County Council to recover possession of a plot of land at Amersham, which the council had intended to use at some time in the future for a proposed diversion of the A404 around Amersham, and which the defendant, Mr Christopher Moran, had treated as part of the garden of his house, Dolphin Place, which adjoined the land to the north of the plot.

Mr Michael Douglas for the council; Mr Peter R. Griffiths for Mr Moran.

MR JUSTICE HOFFMANN said that Mr Moran admitted that the council had acquired title under a conveyance of October 20, 1955, but that he had been in adverse possession for more than 12 years, and therefore the council's title had been extinguished under sections 15 and 17 of the Limitation Act 1980.

The plot was separated from the property to the south by a laurel hedge and had been used for the west and on the road frontage to the east, but there was nothing to separate it from the land to the north.

Despite a suggestion from the council that it should be let to the owner of the house to the north, or that a fence should be erected, nothing was done.

From about 1967 onwards, predecessors in title to Mr Moran began maintaining the plot, mowing the grass and trimming the hedges, and had from time to time parked a horse-box on the land, during that time no one had challenged their right to occupy the land, and that their permission had been sought to the laying of an electric cable to supply the tennis courts on the recreation ground to the rear.

The claim to adverse possession had first been raised in correspondence in 1976, and if the

council had started proceedings then they would almost certainly have succeeded, but in the proceedings, which were not commenced until 1985, when another nine years had elapsed. The crucial date was therefore October 28, 1973.

Had a cause of action to recover the land accrued to the council by that date? That question had to be answered in accordance with paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 1 to the Limitation Act 1980, whereby no right of action was to be treated as accruing unless the land was "in the possession of some person in whose favour the period of limitation can run", that is adverse possession.

That meant that tenants, licensees and beneficiaries under trusts were excluded, but there was no doubt that Mr Moran was a person in whose favour the period of limitation could run.

The issue was whether, before the crucial date, he had assumed possession of the land and for that purpose it was necessary to look at paragraph 1 of the same Schedule, which provided that where the person bringing the action to recover land had been dispossessed of his land by another person, the right of action should be treated as having accrued as at the date of the dispossession or discontinuance.

The council had been in possession and had not discontinued it, so the question was whether the council had been dispossessed before the crucial date.

His Lordship had been referred to a number of cases from the nineteenth century, almost all of which were considered by Mr Justice Slade in *Powell v McFarlane* ([1977] 38 P & CR 452), with whose analysis his Lordship agreed. But Mr Justice Slade had been troubled by the doctrine of implied licence, introduced into the law by a number of Court of Appeal decisions, which had been disapproved by paragraph 8(4) of Schedule 1 to the 1980 Act.

Mr Justice Slade said (at p469) that he regarded possession as

"that degree of occupation or physical control coupled with the requisite intention commonly referred to as *animus possidendi*, that would entitle a person to maintain an action of trespass in relation to the relevant land", and "dispossession" as simply the taking of possession in such a sense from another without the other's licence or consent.

Adopting that analysis, what Mr Moran had to show was a dealing with the land as an actual owner might be expected to deal with it, and that no one else had done so. That requirement was satisfied, since he had padlocked the gate to the plot and kept the key, had maintained the grass and trimmed the hedges.

The more difficult question was whether he had the necessary *animus possidendi*. In this case the council had a special intention for use of the land as a road at some time in the future, and furthermore Mr Moran knew of that intention.

Mr Justice Slade in *Powell v McFarlane* (at p485) had said that a claimant who was an owner had no present use for his land but had future plans for its use (for example by development or by dedication to the public as a highway) then the court would on the facts readily treat a trespasser, whose acts had not been inconsistent with such future plans, as having no manifested the requisite *animus possidendi*, or, alternatively, as not having acquired a sufficient degree of exclusive occupation to constitute possession.

That seemed to be a common sense inference of fact since one did not readily assume an intention on any one's part to interfere with the plans of the person whom he knew to be the true owner.

However, Mr Justice Slade also said (at p477) that there were a few acts which, by their very nature, were so drastic as to point unquestionably, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, to an intention to appropriate the land in question, such as ploughing up and

cultivation of agricultural land, and enclosure of land. Here the land was already enclosed when Mr Moran came upon it, the only means of access being over his own land or through the gate to the road on which he placed a lock. It was simply the taking of possession in such a sense from another without the other's licence or consent.

If on an inspection the council had found a newly placed padlock, they could hardly have been otherwise than satisfied that Mr Moran intended to exclude everyone including themselves. In looking at his state of mind it was relevant to consider the conveyancing documents when he purchased the land, and in reference to the plot in question and the statutory declaration were strong evidence that he was intending to take over some kind of possessory title.

It was said that a note of a conversation with a Mr Harris, for the council, in November 1975 was inconsistent with that intention, in which there was talk of an option to purchase if the road was not to be constructed.

But what was required was not an intention to own, or even an intention to acquire ownership but an intention to possess. The conversation was not inconsistent with that intention. So, despite the normal presumption that the council's intention of incorporating the plot into his garden did point unquestionably to an intention to have possession.

In none of the cases referred to, namely *Lewis v Jack* ([1979] 5 Ex D 264); *Williams Brothers Direct Supply Ltd v Raftery* ([1958] 1 QB 559); *Trichell v Chamberlain* ([1969] 20 P & CR 633); *Kelly v Kelly* ([1975] 1 WLR 1295) was there the feature of complete enclosure as well as the acts of use relied on in this case. The defence was made out.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard & Co; for Mr D. U. Pullen, Aylesbury; Memory Crystal.

Restraining breaches of covenant

Unigate Dairies Ltd v Bruce

An interlocutory injunction to restrain pending trial alleged breaches of a covenant, restricting an employer's activities after the termination of his employment, should preserve the status quo as it had been before the alleged breaches had commenced, not the position as at the date of the hearing, since the latter necessarily involved permitting the former employee to continue to do acts which were alleged to constitute breaches of the covenant.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Waite) so held on February 23, allowing Unigate's appeal from Mr John Prosser, QC, who, sitting as a deputy High Court

judge on November 19, 1987, had granted an interlocutory injunction restraining the defendant milkman from committing further alleged breaches of a covenant not to serve the plaintiff's customers following the termination of his employment, but permitting him to continue to serve such customers whom he had already begun to serve in breach, so the plaintiff alleged.

The Court of Appeal granted an injunction restraining all breaches of the covenant.

MR JUSTICE WAITE said that the judge must have concluded that an injunction was necessary to restrain the alleged breaches and that damages would not be an adequate

remedy to the plaintiff if he succeeded in the action.

At the same time to refuse to restrain the continuance of a breach which was already occurring was so manifestly inconsistent and self-contradictory as, in the absence of any explanation in the judgment, to render the decision unreasonable in the *Hedley* sense ([1948] 1 KB 223).

Correction

In *R v Griffin* (The Times March 1) it was not Mr Assistant Recorder McCreath but Judge Cooke who convicted and sentenced the appellant. The recorder merely heard a not guilty plea and adjourned the case for trial.

Union membership was unreasonably refused

Transport and General Workers' Union v Tucker

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Dillon and Lord Justice Bingham

[Judgment February 11]

Where there was a practice in accordance with a union membership agreement that an employer would employ only members of a particular branch of the trade union specified in the agreement, an employer whose application to transfer his membership to the relevant branch had been refused, could complain to an industrial tribunal that such refusal was unreasonable and contrary to his rights under section 4(2) of the Employment Act 1980.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the Transport and General Workers' Union from the Employment Appeal Tribunal which had dismissed its appeal from an industrial tribunal, sitting in Liverpool, which had held that Mr Kenneth Tucker's application for membership of branch 6/541 (Liverpool Commercial Transport) of the union had been unreasonably refused.

Mr Timothy Horlock for the Union; Mr Charles James for Mr Tucker.

His Lordship had been greatly surprised by the delay because such appeals were in a priority category particularly where, as here, they involved a consideration of a statutory provision for the first time. He had accordingly found out what had gone wrong.

Time for appealing had been extended until March 1987. Then in April 1987 the appeal had gone into the List of Forfeiting Appeals, the bundles being filed in May and approved in June. The Civil Appeals Office had been told that the respondent had not wanted early listing, and in October counsel's clerks had agreed the February date with the office.

His Lordship had now made it clear to the office that they should not agree a date so far ahead with counsel's clerks which involved such delay in a case of that sort. In his Lordship's view it could not deal more quickly with such a matter they should return their brief.

Turning to the facts of the case, Mr Tucker, who was a heavy goods vehicle driver, had for 18 years been a member of the TGWU. Originally he had been employed in the Wigan area and been a member of the Wigan branch. Later he had obtained work in Chorley and transferred to the Preston branch. Following redundancy he had transferred again to the Skelmersdale branch near his home.

In April or May 1984 he

obtained employment with a Merseyside employer who was a member of the TGWU that only local branch members would be employed. The employer thought that there would be no problem in Mr Tucker transferring to the relevant branch, although it was a fair reading that Mr Tucker himself may have anticipated some trouble.

The union refused Mr Tucker's application to transfer and maintained that refusal making it clear to the employer that Mr Tucker could not be employed unless he did become a member of the branch.

The question which arose was therefore one purely of the construction of section 4(2) of the Employment Act 1980 and its application to the present facts.

Section 4(2)(a) provided that every person who was, or was seeking to be, in employment had the right not to have an application for membership of a specified trade union unreasonably refused.

Section 4(10) provided that "any expression used in any provision of this section... and in the [Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974] has the same meaning in that provision as it has in that Act, except that any reference in such a provision to a trade union includes a reference to a branch or section of a trade union."

Mr Horlock had submitted that Mr Tucker had no rights under section 4(2) because his

application was for membership of a branch, and further that the union was not a trade union, agreement, a term defined by section 30 of the 1974 Act, in only referring to the TGWU had not been accepted by the employer as being equivalent to the branch.

His Lordship could not agree. Section 4(10) made clear that section 4(2) would apply to facts such as the present. Moreover, the industrial tribunal had found as a fact that the Liverpool branch had been accepted as being the union specified in the agreement.

Mr Horlock had also suggested the employer had repudiated the practice of section 4(2), of the Employment Act 1980 and had abandoned the general practice which the industrial tribunal had found had been in existence for some time.

His Lordship rejected the submissions and would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Dillon agreed and Lord Justice Bingham delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Hextall Esdaile & Co for Jack Thornley, Manchester; Robin Leacock & Partners for Bruce Jack & Co, Ormskirk.

Advertisements on the right margin, including "Ideal wa" and "Going Good".

